



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE



## News

B-52 Snack Bar makes way	Page 2
Hanscom wins AFMC award	Page 3
Services people flex in Kuwait	Page 4
USAFE libraries bookmark winners	Page 5
McConnell family thanks Family Programs	Page 5
Tyndall Enlisted Club open all night	Page 6
Travis Teen Zone offers safe haven	Page 6
Tyndall three-peats in Eubank	Page 7
17th SVS holds Children's Festival	Page 8
355th earns three ACC awards	Page 9
Tyndall honors military youth	Page 10

## From the Agency

Tips for award packages	Page 11
Wrinkle librarian of the year	Page 12
Club membership card has new look	Page 12
AFE building the entertainment plan	Page 13
Six chosen for AF Chess Team	Page 14

## From the Field

Surprise Patrick inspection	Page 15
PREP teaches couples relationships	Page 15
FCC honors Dover providers	Page 16
Sponsorship saves Offutt fireworks	Page 17
Customer service training	Page 18
Casuals keep Services running	Page 19
'3C Challenge' promotes camaraderie	Page 20
Dance fever	Page 20
Joy of reading in pajamas	Page 21
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss	Page 22
Winds of change at Dover Aero Club	Page 23
Service with a smile	Page 23
Shaw Outdoor Rec hosts open house	Page 24
Dover Youth Center honors children	Page 25
Breakfast at Grand Forks	Page 25
Dover Vet Clinic offers advice	Page 26

F.E. Warren's cemetery rich in history	Page 27
Buckley hosts 'Love & Laughter'	Page 28
Patrick focuses on local profits	Page 29
Dyess opens 'Bomb Shelter'	Page 29
Boomers grand opening	Page 30
Buckley hosts Operation Purple Camp	Page 30
Whiteman loves the Oak Ridge Boys	Page 31
Names, faces in the news	Page 32
2005 Iron Chef heats up	Page 32
Brooks at the finals	Page 32

## People

A survivor's story	Pages 33-34
Andrews youth center devotee	Page 35
Ellsworth's spotlight is on:	Page 35
Profile: Matt Cox, F.E. Warren	Page 36
Niagara Falls youth to aviation camp	Page 37
Performing arts camp attendee named	Page 37
Clowning serious for Kirtland NCO	Page 38
Vance youth center counselor shines	Page 38

## Fitness and Sports

AF course offer 'Golf 4 Kids'	Page 39
Dribble 'n drive	Page 39
Tee time for(e) young, old	Page 40
Luke Library says 'Take a hike'	Page 41
52nd SVS beats 52nd AMS	Page 41
Safe at third!	Page 42
Travis children at Hershey track meet	Page 42
Buckley hosts fitness center bash	Page 43
Having a wheel good time	Page 43
Altus SVS intramural champs	Page 44
Travis fitness center changes policy	Page 44
Running for a good cause	Page 44
Seymour Johnson intramural softball	Page 45
AF wrestlers take medals	Page 46
Gym reopens with fanfare, fun	Page 47
Ashley wins Armed Forces Skeet	Page 48

# NEWS & VIEWS

## B-52 Snack Bar makes way for Outdoor Rec

By Wayne Amann  
37<sup>th</sup> Services  
Division

Since opening its doors in 1968, the B-52 Snack Bar at the Gateway Valley Golf Course, at what was then Kelly Air Force Base, was the place for duffers to sip a cool beverage after shooting a round of 18 holes.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Services Division shut down the course Sept. 30, 2004, due to lack of business. The same fate shot down the B-52 April 1.

Services kept the snack bar open for three months, hoping it could break even financially. It stayed in the red. The handwriting was on the wall.

"This action didn't come easy," 37<sup>th</sup> Services Division Chief Jerry Stanfill said. "We tried very hard to maintain the operation because we felt there was a need. But, given the financial reality we decided to go this route."

Four employees were impacted by

the decision. The regular workers with seniority were given severance packages, priority placement in similar job openings and priority consideration at other San Antonio area installations.

"It's a sad day when you have to reduce the availability of quality of life activities on base," Mr. Stanfill said.

"The silver lining is the start of a new outdoor recreation era for Lackland."

On April 25, Outdoor Recreation Equipment Checkout moved from its current Carswell Street address into the vacated B-52.

The operation shift is a prelude to converting the golf course into an outdoor sports park, a project targeted for completion in stages as funding becomes available.

Plans call for a skateboard area, paintball area with man-made obstacles, a BMX bike course for children, pavilions for rent, an

outdoor stage for plays and commander's calls, basketball and volleyball courts, a mountain bike trail, frisbee (a.k.a. disc) golf, and fishing, plus gazebos for scattered throughout the park.

Shelving, office furniture, display counters, carports protecting towable equipment, a boat motor test tank, a concrete shed, washer/dryer, all regularly rented items, all camping and sports equipment and more were readied for the transfer.

"As the gear is moved we can set up shop," Outdoor Recreation Director Kristin Mayer said. "It'll mean the least down time for customers."

For the few days Outdoor Rec is closed, customers who pick up something at the old location will be asked to return it to the new one. The hours will initially stay the same.

The current facility opened in the 1970s, replacing a base exchange operation.

"We like where we were but the new location lets us expand," Ms. Mayer said. "We want to offer more outdoor programs like fishing lessons and paint ball."

### News & Views

The **News & Views** is published periodically by Air Force Services Agency. Send comments, suggestions or submissions to: **submissions@agency.afsv.af.mil** or **steve.vanwert@agency.afsv.af.mil**.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of Air Force Services Agency. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

# Hanscom's 66th Services earns top Materiel Command award

By Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill  
Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.,  
Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command officials recently announced that the 66th Services Squadron at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., is the command's best small services squadron in the command.

"In my 12 years in the Air Force, this is the most cohesive team of flight chiefs and facility managers that I've had the pleasure to work with," said Maj. Mel Grills, 66th Services Squadron commander.

The squadron earned the award in part because of its focus on customer service, which was evident during the 2004 AFMC Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection. During that inspection, the squadron received the highest rating in every inspectable area.

"Each member of the squadron helped reach this goal," said Keith Stowers, deputy director of AFMC Services. "The IG Team commented that Hanscom had the third highest score of the past 17 AFMC inspections conducted ...and did exceptionally well by receiving one-third [12 of 38] of the Outstanding Performers identified."

During the rating period, the 66th Services Squadron also had several of its 20 activities ranging from child care to outdoor recreation activities boast top honors in AFMC.

The Hanscom Aero Club and Hanscom West Aero Club, in Utica, N.Y., were presented two of the



three AFMC annual safety awards given for accident-free flying during 2003. The squadron was honored as the best AFMC family child care program and the Bowling Center is rated in the top three of all graded categories and is the number one overall for Air Force Customer Feedback Survey.

Besides earning these awards, The Club consolidated its officers' and enlisted clubs into a collocated operation and added 94 new members, about 160 percent of the Air Force goal.

The next step for the squadron is entry into the Air Force's Eugene Lowry Eubank Award. This award is named after retired Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank, who is known to many as the "father of our modern-day Air Force," for his contributions to aviation that played a decisive role in World War II. He retired in 1954 as the Air Force's oldest pilot, having flown between 14,000 and 15,000 hours.

The annual Eubank Award is given to the Air Force base that has the most outstanding Service Squadron among the small Air Force bases. Evaluators come to the base and visit each facility to hear

about what is going on — the type of services being offered, what they plan for the future.

"Being nominated for the Eubank award will give us an opportunity to show everything that we've got, and how we do it

well," said David Van Steenburg, 66th Services Squadron deputy director. "The men and women who make up the services squadron are really going to be able to show off what they can do for the Hanscom community."

An Air Force team of senior leaders will visit Hanscom in the late spring, he said.

"When you look at the competition and then look at what our people do here every day, it's just amazing. We have about a 98 percent satisfaction rate, and with all the different programs that are offered, the quality and customer standards that have been set are unmatched."

Hanscom is going to be competing with bases like Minot AFB, N.D., and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Minot is the reigning champion, while Incirlik won the competition the two previous years.

"Hanscom Services touches the lives of thousands of customers each and every day, and they make living and working easier and more enjoyable," Major Grills said. "They're focused on our number one asset: our people."

# Services people flex skills in Kuwait

**By Staff Sgt. William Farrow**  
386<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Everyone needs a little down-time, and it's the depth of the job of deployed combat Services troops that keep Airmen entertained, fed and housed – a much needed rest for the Airmen here who often put in 14 or even 18 hour workdays.

"We are here to make life a little easier," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Dickinson, a traditional Reservist from the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

He and his fellow Services troops, Tech. Sgt. Bill Myers and Staff Sgt. John Taylor from the 914<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron are deployed to Southwest Asia. Services duties involve food service, fitness, sports, lodging, recreation, mortuary affairs, honor guard and laundry/linen exchange services.

"Our career field is challenging," said Sergeant Dickinson. "We're in a customer service oriented field, relying heavily on teamwork, so we have to make sure we provide these folks with the best of whatever we can put together in terms of recreation," he said.

And that teamwork is what they do best, keeping the FLEX facility jumping with activities. The FLEX is the base's community center. If an event happens on base here, chances are it's going to happen at the FLEX. The facility gives the Airmen deployed here a place to go and interact with another or to simply relax. Since the Airmen deployed here are living in tiny "rooms," or large, open, eight-man tents, the FLEX really is the only place many of the Airmen have to go for social interaction.



**Top from left, Tech. Sgts. Mark Dickinson and Bill Myers set up tables for Bingo Night; right, Sergeant Myers plays guitar for his fans; and bottom, Staff Sgt. John Taylor hold down guard duty. All three are deployed to Kuwait, but assigned to Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y. Courtesy photo**

"It's like the family room at your house," said Sergeant Myers. "They check out a free DVD and watch it on the 56-inch big screen television from one of the five sofas. It's like being at home for just a little bit."

Thursday night is Bingo night, a night so popular there aren't enough tables to hold the players. "It's standing-room only," said Sergeant Dickinson.

The Airmen here get a treat of an occasional performing arts troop, such as when BRAVO! Army Theater performed the three-man show, "The History of America (Abridged)" before a nearly full house. Sergeants Dickinson, Myers and Taylor all assisted in turning the empty floor into a cozy theater in a matter of hours. The three continue pursuing activities to make life better for the troops who hold the key to the "door to the war."





# USAFE Libraries bookmark design winners announced

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services recently announced the winners of the USAFE Libraries-sponsored Bookmark Design Contest held during April as part of National Library Week.

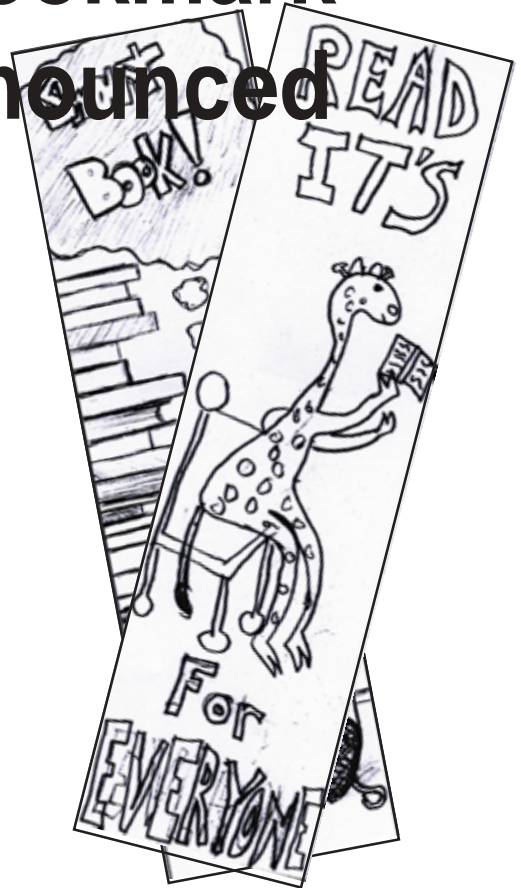
Winners in each of the four submission categories are:

Reyhan Schmidt, a third-grader from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Danielle Sadlo, a sixth-grader from Aviano AB, Italy; Hannah Wheeler, an eighth-grader from Izmir AB, Turkey; and Christina Ann Slauenwhite, an 11<sup>th</sup>-grader, Menwith Hill Station, England.

Amy Goodnite, eighth-grader from Vogelweh, Germany, received an honorable mention.

USAFE youth submitted dozens of bookmarks for the contest, based on the theme "Something for everyone @ your library."

Winning submissions will be featured on bookmarks to be distributed at USAFE libraries. The winning bookmarks, along with a selection of additional entries, will be posted on the USAFE Library website at [www.usafelibraries.org](http://www.usafelibraries.org).



## ***McConnell family thanks Family Programs with flags***

Tech. Sgt. Tanya Evans, 22nd Medical Operations Squadron, wife of Tech. Sgt. Gary Evans, 349th Air Refueling Squadron, presents Melodie Skillman, McConnell Air Force Base, Calif., School Age Program director, along with the SAP assistants, a certificate indicating their flag was flown over Tech. Sgt. Gary Evans' deployed location. The Evans family presented the flag to show their appreciation to the SAP for supporting McConnell's families throughout the years. They also presented a flag to their son's class and the Child Development Center. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristine Dreyer



## ***Tyndall Enlisted Club open all night***

**By Steve Riddle**  
325<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

Enlisted troops at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. will get the chance to stay out until the wee hours of the morning when the Enlisted Club hosted its All-Night Disco Party on a recent Saturday evening.

The event started at 8 p.m. and went on until 4 a.m. There was a variety of music played in both the club ballroom and The Zone Lounge, and dance contests and other games gave Air Force Club members a chance to win CDs, DVDs, pizzas from the Sports Page Pizza Pub, and free bowling from Raptor Lanes Bowling Center.

"It was brought up at a recent Enlisted Club Advisory Council meeting that people wanted an all-night dance party, and we responded," said Chris Saladin, Tyndall Officers' Club manager. "Our staff worked hard to give them an event they'd enjoy."

Running Wild Entertainment featured rock and Top 40 music in The Zone Lounge, and Hip Hop and R&B music filled the ballroom. Pizza, hot wings, veggie trays and other snack foods were served from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m., and assorted finger sandwiches were available from 1 to 3 a.m.

Members of the Enlisted Club Advisory Council and Airmen Against Drunk Driving provided free transportation home for those who may have enjoyed the event just a little too much.

"Being open later gave us the chance to offer more leisure activity opportunities for our customers," Mr. Saladin said.

Air Force Club members and their spouses got in free. Non-members paid \$6 at the door, but people could sign up for club membership that night. First year dues are free for enlisted ranks E-1 through E-4 and all second lieutenants stationed at Tyndall AFB.

## **Travis Teen Zone offers drug-free, safe youth haven**

**Courtesy of 60<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron**

The Travis Teen Zone, a hub of activities, events, programs and services for teens ages 13 to 18, is designed to meet their recreational, social and educational development needs.

The Teen Zone is located at the Base Exchange Mini-Mall in Bldg. 650 and is open Monday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.

"Travis' teens need a place to call their own, somewhere in this world that belongs to them where they aren't treated like children, but young adults," said Susan Brown, Teen Zone director. "We are reaching teens every day by giving them a positive place to do homework, participate in art or music, join a club or just hang out in a drug free and safe environment."

It gives Travis teen a constructive option for using their time.

The Teen Zone houses games, art supplies, musical equipment, a full kitchen, state-of-the-art television and stereo equipment, and internet

access. Teens can also use the fitness center for sporting and fitness Teen Zone events and programs, giving teens a host of activities from which to choose.

With a monthly calendar of events, Teen Zone members are never without something fun and educational to try. Pool tournaments, Bingo, skate night and field trips are just a few of the many events designed for teen fun.

The Teen Zone is also the central point for many educational programs, many of which offer scholarships or funds for higher education, such as the Youth Employment Skills program, Youth of the Year program, Congressional Award and the Presidential Scholarship Award.

The Teen Zone also offers Power Hour Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. to help teens focus on their homework.

During the summer and school breaks, the Teen Zone has special programs, including rock climbing, swim parties, sailing expeditions, golf outings and many other outdoor activities.

# Tyndall Services three-peats as AETC Eubank small unit winner

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Albert Bosco  
Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Public Affairs

For an unprecedented third straight year for Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., the 325th Services Squadron has swept the competition for the coveted Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank award in the best small unit category.

The award recognizes the Air Force's best overall small unit morale welfare and recreation program. Evaluators look at services squadrons around the Air Force, visiting each facility to learn about what they are doing, what services are offered and what programs or projects are planned for the future.

Winning the award at the command level, the squadron will now face winners from other commands for Air Force-level honors.

"This award is truly an award for the entire Tyndall community," said Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th SVS commander.

The award is welcome news not only for Colonel Piccolo and his troops, but the 325th Mission Support Group as well.

"We try to provide the best support possible to all of Team Tyndall across the spectrum of services offered by the group, and winning this award illustrates our commitment to do just that," said Col. Martin Sayles, 325th MSG commander.

The squadron is charged with running dozens of facilities and programs at Tyndall including the Berg-Liles Dining Facility, Child Development Center, Youth Center



Shania Banks, front, strums the guitar as Haillie Lahnum, left, Sofia Rodgers, Tyler Faulds, Sofia Newman, Aine Majors and Samantha Mulders join in at the Youth Center. Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Newman are school-age program assistants at the Youth Center, which is part of the 325th Services Squadron. The squadron recently won the 2005 Air Education and Training Command Services Outstanding Unit Award, Small Category. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

and Outdoor Recreation Complex, to name a few. Maintaining the squadron's high standards may seem like a daunting task, but the services folks take great pride in providing the best services available to Tyndall people, something that is evident in their accomplishments.

In fact, according to the award package, some of their noted accomplishments include deploying 92 percent of the squadron to support contingency operations overseas. While deployed, services members brought a little of the good life to more than 5,000 desert warfighters by opening a 2,000 square foot pool, 9,000 square foot dining facility and a mini fitness center.

The squadron was credited for developing a lodging and food

evacuation plan, allowing them to relocate more than 1,800 U.S. and coalition forces within 24 hours.

But the squadron's accomplishments don't stop there. In fact the squadron's support was pivotal during Hurricane Ivan, which struck Tyndall in September 2004. The squadron provided food and lodging support for more than 200 evacuees and served as the regional National Guard liaison for relief efforts, providing food and lodging.

When the Air Force evaluation team arrives, the squadron will be ready, Colonel Piccolo said.

"We're in it to win it," he said. "We can compete with anyone, but what will bring this prestigious award home to Team Tyndall is a show of enthusiasm from the entire community, on base and off."



# 17th SVS Youth Flight holds 21st Annual Children's Festival

**By Senior Airman  
Minnette Fontanilla  
Goodfellow Air Force  
Base, Texas, Public  
Affairs**

Families of Team Goodfellow gathered outside the community center here for the 21st Annual Children's Festival Saturday. Karey Morelock of the 17th Services

Division Youth Flight was responsible for coordinating the event.

"The children's festival is held in honor of the Month of the Military Child, which is in April," she said.

Although the festival is held around the same time every year, the flight strives to



Children had the opportunity to be artistic while painting a mural provided by the base arts and crafts center. Various forms of entertainment were provided in addition to the gaming and information booths. Photos by Senior Airman Minnette Fontanilla

make each year unique in the events that are offered. This year, the Bullettes and Junior Bullettes of the San Angelo Stampede performed during the opening of the festival.

Also, a Mariachi band from Central High School performed at the beginning of the event.

"It's important to change things up sometimes to keep these kinds of events interesting," said Leilani Valle, event co-coordinator with the 17<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Youth Flight.

However, some features of the event were back by popular demand. Sparky the Fire Dog made his appearance, and the children enjoyed jumping around in the infamous bouncy tiger.

Additionally, families took cake

home after winning them at the cakewalk event. And the "Air Force" team won \$100 for the bed race.

"People always enjoy going home with a prize," Ms. Valle said. "Whether it's a sweet cake or extra cash, it's always a treat!"

At the conclusion of the event, three drawings were held to give away prize packages.

Packages included free tickets to tour the Texas Rangers baseball field, as well as to attend a game, ice skating passes for free entry to a local ice rink, and a free night's stay in a Dallas hotel.



The "Air Force" team performs the Chinese dragon obstacle during a bed race, the final scheduled event of the festival. The team competed against four other teams, and won the first place prize, which was \$100.



**By Airman 1st Class  
Clark Staehle  
Davis Monthan Air  
Force Base, Ariz.,  
Public Affairs**

Air Combat Command has announced three winners from Davis-Monthan's Desert Lightning Community.

"I am extremely proud of how our Airmen continue to excel in everything they do," said Col. Michael Spencer, 355th Wing commander.

"The Desert Lightning Team continues to blaze paths and set the example for others to follow."

Winners were:  
The ACC Innkeeper Traveler of the Year Award: David Ruiz of The Inn at Davis-Monthan.

The ACC Individual Services Award for Outstanding Civilian Manager: Dan Baker of The Inn at Davis-Monthan.

The 2005 ACC Innkeeper Award, large-base category: The Inn at Davis-Monthan.

While two of the awards were for individuals, one of them was for The Inn at Davis-Monthan as a group.

"The ACC evaluators said our

team is what makes our lodging operation successful," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Williams, lodging assistant manager. "

The willingness to work as a team and look out for each other sets The Inn at Davis-Monthan apart from other entries.

"It's amazing to watch our base personnel continue to not only set the highest goals as a team, but to achieve goals as a team as well," Colonel Spencer said.

"They work hard all year and I think it's fantastic they're being recognized at this level. D-M's

# 355th SVS earns three ACC awards



From left, Dan Baker and David Ruiz, from the 355th Services Squadron, go over financial paperwork at The Inn on Davis-Monthan. Mr. Baker recently won the Air Combat Command Individual Services Award for Outstanding Civilian Manager. Mr. Ruiz recently won the ACC Innkeeper Traveler of the Year. Photos by Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy



Senior Airman Mario Wiggins, 355th Services Squadron, assists a customer on the phone at The Inn at Davis-Monthan. The Inn at Davis-Monthan won the 2005 Air Combat Command Innkeeper Award, large-base category, for the second year in a row.

personnel continue to prove their mettle at the major command level. Whether as individuals or as an entire unit, the Desert Lightning Team continues to show over and over again why we're an exceptional group of men and women."

Two individuals were also recognized by ACC.

"Although this is considered an individual award, it would not have happened without all the outstanding lodging profession-

als that work here at D-M, the best large lodging operation in the (Air Force)," said Dan Baker, lodging general manager of The Inn.

"I would expect nothing less from our personnel than their best," Colonel Spencer said.

"Thank you for everything you do day in and day out. This is your moment in the sun and each of you deserves it. I am confident we will continue to succeed well into the future," he said.

## Month of the military child: Youngest members of military family honored at Tyndall



**By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William Powell**  
Tyndall Air Force Base,  
Fla. Public Affairs

Since 1986, the secretary of defense has designated April as Month of the Military Child for all service branches. The month is an opportunity to reflect on and recognize the contributions and personal sacrifices children make as the youngest members in the military family.

According to Alma Hooks, Tyndall Youth Center youth programs director, military children deserve recognition just as much as

fathers, mothers or presidents because of the many contributions and sacrifices the children make so their parents can fulfill their duty to serve in the armed forces.

"Military children often have to deal with the absence of one parent (or more) due to deployments or remote assignments," she said.

Marie Pippin, Tyndall Child Development Center director, echoed Ms. Hooks' comments adding most military children live a completely different lifestyle than children with civilian

parents, which can bring both advantages and disadvantages.

"Moving frequently, for example, can help children learn to be flexible to change, gain exposure to many different locations and develop social skills," Ms. Pippin said. "On the other hand, children often don't have the support of extended family living close by or the opportunity to grow up with the same circle of friends."

The military works to meet the emotional needs of military children through organizations such as base youth centers and child development centers, said Ms. Hooks.

"Our job here at the Youth Center is to recognize children's feelings (after a parent is deployed or when they leave friends behind) and help them cope with those feelings, answer questions and help the other parent left behind as much as we can," she said.

Tyndall's Youth Center and CDC sponsored events included a children's

parade, which officially began the center's MOMC events, and "Loads and Loads of Games" event, where children were challenged to play as many games as they could for a three-hour period.

The monthly Skate Night at the Youth Center included a few new twists and surprises.

Family Child Care and other Tyndall volunteers sponsored a booth at KidsFest at Gulf Coast Community College. This county-wide event included different activities and fun events for only \$1.

All Tyndall families were invited to

attend Movie Night in the Youth Center. The center broke in their new 10-foot movie screen for the event. Free popcorn was provided for those who attended.

The CDC also hosted the annual Month of the Military Child Picnic for children and their families. The event began with activities for parents and children at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at 11 a.m. That evening, the Youth Center culminated the month by serving a spaghetti dinner for parents and children, followed by an entertaining performance by the children.



**Brittni Viskochil, daughter of Tech. Sgt. David Viskochil, 325th Maintenance Operation Squadron, enjoys playing on the jungle-gym equipment following the cookout. Photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek**

## FROM THE AGENCY

A Services commentary

## Tips from an AF Services awards board veteran

Lt. Col. Brian Blankenship has been a member of the last five Air Force Services Awards Boards. As an awards board veteran, who has probably read it all, he offers the following observations and tips for future nomination packages.

**Overall, this year was terrific.** Not only were the packages the best of the five years I've sat on the board, but we were also treated to the very first Dr. Beverly Schmalzreid award, presented in honor of Dr. Schmalzreid, the former Air Force Family Member Program Director.

**That having been said, there are a few common problems,** that if corrected would make the packages even better. One is to make sure you are following the latest guidance put out by the Air Force Services Agency. Cathy Edmonds

spends tons of time putting all of this together, and each year issues the Air Force Services Awards Criteria Call Letter. When it comes out, use it as your guide.

**There is no substitute for knowing the current guidance, and following it to the letter.** When in doubt, call Mrs. Edmonds at the agency and get the questions clarified.

Here are some other tips:

**Occasionally the writers spend so much time putting all the great things down in one category, that they completely omit or short-change another.** With a separate scoring of each section, this can eliminate an otherwise excellent package.

Citations: Saying that something is "good" or the "best ever" is really nice, but if you can cite something concrete, then it really stands

out. For example, "Best ever encountered in 30 year career says ABW/CC" (better), "Best in AF Services," says Mr. Art Myers (excellent), "Best customer Services in AF," according to annual AFSVA survey (or corporate prism, marketing data, etc) = BEST.

**Put your hard hitting material up front and at the end** to set the stage, and later, close the deal, e.g. "#1 CGO on base — winner of 2004 WPAFB Sijan Award as best officer leader". This really tells us something to start off. I found several like that buried deep in the narrative.

**Remember how competitive these categories are** and who your audience is. The people who sit on the board are all senior within the career field and know what we do, what the acronyms are (most, anyway), and what the

Combat Support Flight does. **Do not waste a line providing job descriptions.**

Invest the time and effort separating this person from the other 10 competitors — and that can be tough. Writers need not embellish, but make sure you talk numbers, statistics, and impact on mission, and leadership vs. participation in activities.

There are always intentionally clever phrases, as well as some unintended humor. **Put some of your best writers together to craft the material,** and then read it back to a small audience to make sure that it really sounds the way you want it to.

The 2004 awards board members acknowledged that there were fewer spelling errors, grammatical problems and missing or truncated lines.

**Continued on Page 16**



## Wrinkle named Federal Librarian of the Year

Recently, the Federal Library and Information Center Committee has announced the winners of its national awards for federal librarianship to recognize the many innovative ways federal libraries, librarians and library technicians fulfill the information demands of government, business, scholarly communities and the American public.

Barbara Wrinkle, Chief of the Air Force Libraries Branch at the Air Force Library and Information System, received the award as 2004 Federal Librarian of the Year for her dedication to providing the best possible information services to military personnel and their families around the world.

Known for her vast knowledge and professional expertise, she is a top performer, a strong library advocate, a knowledgeable mentor and an outstanding leader. In Fiscal Year 2004 she made major contri-

butions to the revised Department of Defense Library Strategic plan, the DOD Instruction for Morale, Welfare and Recreations libraries and to a number of library assessment tools.

She also saw to the full implementation of the Air Force Library's Web-based central purchasing, financial management and reporting system which led to savings of more than nine million dollars, and initiated the implementation of a library resource center on the Air Force Web Portal.

FLICC honored the award winners at the 22nd Annual FLICC Forum on Federal Information Policies at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where they received their awards from the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington. Their names will also remain on permanent display in the FLICC offices at the Library of Congress.



**Barbara Wrinkle (right), chief of the Air Force Libraries Branch at the Air Force Library Information System San Antonio, accepts the award for Federal Librarian of the Year with Col. Timothy Hanson, Air Force Services Agency commander. Courtesy photo**

Federal libraries and staff throughout the United States and abroad competed in three award categories for the seventh annual FLICC Awards.

## *Air Force Club membership card has new look*

In conjunction with the merger of Bank One with Chase Bank, the club membership card is being redesigned. The current card was deployed in 1999, and no changes have been made to it since that time. Due to the merger, Chase Bank is "re-branding" all previous Bank One cards, including Air Force club membership cards.

Over the last several months, the Club Division at Air Force Services Agency has been working with Chase Bank and developed several possible card designs. Those designs were worked and re-worked and a selection was made and reported back to Chase Bank for them to put into production. The new design depicts the Thunderbirds, and incorporates the Chase logo and the Services logo.

The result is a completely fresh, new look.

The new cards are scheduled to be "mass reissued" this fall, currently in the August to September time frame. The new cards will have the same membership benefits, rate and terms. All MasterCard club membership cards will be issued in August.

Club members will receive the new cards, along with an invitation to enroll in the Military Free Cash program if not already enrolled.

All Private Label club membership cards will be issued in September. Prior to their reissue, Chase Bank will review all Private Label cardholders for the possibility to upgrade them to MasterCard. Those that are upgraded will also receive the offer of the Military Free Cash Program.



## Armed Forces Entertainment building our entertainment plan

From left, John Field, Caribbean Circuit Manager, discusses the fiscal 2006 entertainment plan with Robin Gonzalez and Master Sgt. Delroy Whittaker, Honduras Area Coordinators. Courtesy photo

**By Maj. Sherry Turner**  
**Armed Forces**  
**Entertainment**

Have you ever wondered how Armed Forces Entertainment determines what type of entertainment will deploy to any one of its 371 supported military sites overseas? It's not done through the use of a crystal ball, roulette wheel or even best guess. It's all part of an extensive systematic process that begins each January for the upcoming fiscal year.

A "call" for combatant command's annual entertainment requirements is disseminated through official

military channels with a suspense date of March 15. The input is forwarded to each circuit's respective country coordinator through designated area coordinators, whose job it is to review and consolidate the numerous requests received. At that point a single submission is provided to the respective circuit regional coordinator. AFE has four regional coordinators strategically positioned in Hawaii, Italy, Qatar and Germany. It is the responsibility of the regional coordinator to review each country coordinator's submission and develop a draft

annual entertainment plan with three primary goals in mind, first, to ensure the plan is evenly distributed throughout the year, then to ensure equitable distribution of entertainment across all services, and also to ensure priority is given to remote and isolated locations and ships at sea.

The draft entertainment plan is refined and modified based on anticipated funding allocations for the coming fiscal year by regional coordinators and circuit managers at AFE's annual conference. This year's conference was conducted March 22 through 24 with designated

representatives from all six circuits: Pacific, Southwest Asia, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Europe and the Balkans in attendance. Other attendees included members of the United Service Organizations, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Internal Communications and Public Liaison, Roger Christian and Company, and Army and Coast Guard MWR Directors.

Upon validation and approval, the chief, AFE, distributes the annual entertainment plan to commands by May 30.

The plan is also distributed to regional, country

and area coordinators to ensure widespread dissemination of the information.

With a formal plan in place, circuit managers recruit and contract entertainers that best meet the requirements of the commands and to assure continuous deployment of entertainment to our troops and family members overseas. Commanders and troops interested in knowing what live U.S. entertainment is heading their way can check out the schedule on AFE's website: [www.armedforcesentertainment.com](http://www.armedforcesentertainment.com) in addition to learning more about the program.

# Six selected for Air Force Chess Team

By Steve VanWert  
Air Force Services Agency

Seventeen Air Force members battled head-to-head on one of the oldest battlefields in history recently, the chess board, as the 2005 Air Force Chess Tournament determined members of the 2005 Air Force Chess Team.

The top six players were named to the team, which will compete in the Inter-Service tournament in June in Fort Myer, Va. Six players will be selected to represent the U.S. military at the NATO tournament in August, hosted by Poland.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Smith from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; and Staff Sgts. Robert Keough from Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., and Nathaneil Ola from Schriever AFB, Colo., each earned five points out of a possible seven to advance to the team.

Col. Sam Echaure from Barksdale AFB, La.; Master Sgt. Oliver Dela Cruz from Bolling AFB, D.C., and Tech. Sgt. Dan Ranario from Royal



From left, Staff Sgt. Robert Keough from Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and Tech. Sgt. Brian Smith from Lackland AFB, Texas, concentrate on the next move during the recent Air Force Chess Tournament held at the Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Community Center. Courtesy photo

Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom, each earned four and a half points to fill out the team roster.

"The competition this year was tough and I'm happy to have finished with the top score," said Sergeant Keough. "A lot of the skills the Air Force taught me, especially discipline and attention to detail, have really honed my chess abilities. Now my goal is for the Air Force team to beat the Navy, Army and Marine teams at the inter-service tournament."

Sergeant Keough also won the award for the highest points scored during the tournament. He is a past member of the Air Force team, and was also a member of the 2004 NATO team.

The tournament was a seven-round Swiss style tournament. A Blitz, or speed, tournament was

held after the official rated one, with Colonel Echaure taking first place, Staff Sgt. Robert Bucholtz from Schriever AFB taking second and Sergeant Ola winning third.

"We really appreciate the Davis Monthan Community Center staff and the whole Davis Monthan team for a wonderful job of hosting the week-long tournament," said Margaret Barnett, Air Force Services Agency. "Their support provided a great setting and atmosphere for the Air Force Chess tournament."

In 2002, the Air Force chess program was revived after a 10-year break. Each year the major commands select two players to attend the Air Force tournament. Players are selected by either competing in a command tournament or by resume.



## FROM THE FIELD

## Surprise Patrick inspection 'no sweat'

**By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Tuttle**  
Patrick Air Force Base,  
Fla., Public Affairs

Another 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing squadron shined brightly in a surprise inspection.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., received high marks in an annual unannounced Air Force-level inspection March 21 to 25.

Used for Department of Defense certification, the inspection took place at the Child

Development Center, Family Child Care and all youth programs in the 45<sup>th</sup> SW, including the school-aged program and youth development and sports programs.

The inspection covered facilities, equipment, curriculum, staff qualifications and development, food service and nutrition, safety, and health and sanitation, among other areas.

"We improved our scores from last year's inspection

from 83 to 89 and the inspectors didn't find any repeat deficiencies," said Pamela Jordan, 45<sup>th</sup> SVS Family Member Programs flight chief. "They liked what they saw in the classrooms and the documentation they had to go through was well organized."

More than the scores, what is important is that children are getting top-notch care.

"This means that parents can feel good about the

programs their children are enrolled in," said Col. Ed Swedberg, 45<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group commander. "That's a tribute to the providers and all of the personnel working to make these facilities and programs better."

Receiving the high score was no surprise to Ms. Jordan. "The score is just a confirmation that we are providing the highest quality care available to children every day," she said.

## PREP teaches how to improve relationships

**By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Randy Hughes**  
Minot Air Force Base, N.D., Public Affairs

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., co-sponsored by the 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing chaplain's office and the Family Support Center, teaches romantically committed couples how to improve their relationship. Seminars are scheduled frequently in the Jimmy Doolittle Center.

"PREP provides skills and principles for committed partners who need to get to the heart of problems and increase the effectiveness of their relationship with each other," said Vicki Lokken, FSC community readiness consultant. "When relationships break down or there's a problem at home, it can affect people mentally and physically; they are quick to react and their judgment is impaired, and in today's Air Force, we can't afford impaired decisions and reduced productivity."

"PREP ties directly into readiness," said Chaplain (Capt.) Scott Jobe. "We want to prevent break-ups and enhanced relationships not only for readiness, but for families that deal with a multitude of issues presented by the military lifestyle."

The 12-hour seminar covers danger signs, speaking and listening techniques, problem solving, negative communication and forgiveness.

According to studies, money, sex and communication are the major reasons couples split up.

"We split the seminars by rank so people would feel this is a safe environment to open up and talk about any problems without their bosses," said Ms. Lokken.

PREP is designed as a prevention seminar, and both the 5<sup>th</sup> BW chaplain and FSC are watching to see if the old wife's tale, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" holds true.

# FCC honors Dover providers

## *Sheri Goad 2005 FCC Provider of the Year*

**By Tammy Stock**  
436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

The 436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Family Child Care office at Dover Air Force Base, Del., honors their providers in celebration of the National Provider Appreciation Day.

National Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and educators of young children everywhere.

"National Provider Appreciation Day is a national effort that asks child care organizations, public officials and parents to honor their child care providers for their hard work and dedication to our children," said Beverly Henderson, 436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Family Child Care coordinator.

Sheri Goad has been selected as the 2005 Dover Air Force Base Family Child Care Provider of the

Year. Mrs. Goad has worked with children as provider, assistant teacher, Child Development Center caregiver and community volunteer for the past 12 years.

The 436<sup>th</sup> SVS Family Child Care program will honor Mrs. Goad with a special presentation during the Provider Appreciation Celebration.

"Working with children is a privilege I thank God for everyday," said Ms. Goad. "I am thrilled to be a Family Child Care provider where I am able to enhance not only the lives of my children through early childhood development, but offer to others the same opportunities."

To be considered for provider of the year, parents and providers submit a letter to the FCC coordinator nominating a provider that they feel is worthy of this honor. Once nominated, the provider submits a short summary outlining her FCC program.

The letter and summary, along with the provider's training and inspection scores, are presented to the Family Child Care Panel for selection.

The FCC panel consists of the 436<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group deputy commander, 436<sup>th</sup> SVS deputy commander and the 436<sup>th</sup> SVS Family Member program flight chief. The panel is also invited to tour the nominated provider's home prior to making their decision.

FCC homes are held to strict training, health, safety and programming standards.

"It takes a dedicated and committed individual to become a family child care provider," said Mrs. Henderson. "All FCC providers should be commended for the dedication, compassion and strong family values they demonstrate everyday."

### ***Tips from an AF Services awards board veteran, continued from Page 11***

More time is being spent proofreading, using the spelling and grammatical checks in the computers, and the results are more competitive packages overall.

There is no substitute for knowing the rules, starting early, proof-reading, running spelling and grammar checks, and using citations and impacts as much as possible.

**The perfect combination is one in which the enthusiasm of the writer is evident, combined with numbers and facts that back up that excitement and good feeling.**

Let's make the board's job as tough as possible by writing competitive packages.

# Sponsorship saves Offutt fireworks

By Brent Rowse  
55th Services

For almost 30 years, Joy Weeks, head of training for the 55<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and her family have gathered at the Base Lake to watch the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks.

"We've gone out there all but one year since 1978," Ms. Weeks said. "We have family fly in from Phoenix for the Fourth, so the whole family is together, so July Fourth is pretty important for us."

Ms. Weeks said that she and her family gained their appreciation for Independence Day when they lived overseas and could not fully celebrate the holiday.

Her family's tradition includes fishing tournaments and cookouts at the Base Lake.

The best thing about the day is being with family and the strong patriotic feeling fireworks evoke, Ms. Weeks said. The next best thing,

however, is that there is something for everyone at the lake.

"During the day there are lots of activities to choose from. There is usually a fishing competition, games for the kids, people playing ball or horseshoes, and other people just relaxing, picnicking or taking naps. Then, around 8:30 or 9 p.m. people start cleaning up because the fireworks start at 10."

Until two years ago, Offutt and the Bellevue, Neb. Jaycee's funded the fireworks show for the July Fourth festivities.

Both organizations had to cut funding, however, and the fireworks show hung in the balance.

"With only a couple of weeks until the holiday, we, the Services Squadron, discussed canceling the fireworks show," Ms. Weeks said. "I can't imagine the Fourth without fireworks, but there just wasn't any money for it."

Valerie Meyer, Commercial Sponsorship Coordinator for the 55<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, said the Bellevue Jaycee's agreed to handle the details of the 2003 show, but the base had to come up with the money to buy the fireworks.

"Literally three weeks before the holiday I was told that if I couldn't raise the money for the fireworks show, it would just be cancelled," Ms. Meyer said. "So I wrote a letter to various businesses, including Hearthstone Homes."

Ms. Meyer said Hearthstone Homes provided \$8,000 as a sponsor for the fireworks show that year. Last year, and again this year, Hearthstone Homes donated \$8,000 each year to help fund the show.

"Their company core purpose is 'To Discover the Hero in Everyone,' and I thought that would make a great partnership," Ms. Meyer said. "We have a base full of heroes, and not all of them wear a



Commercial sponsors helped light up the sky at the Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., lake on July 4. Photo by Josh Pfueger

uniform. Hearthstone Homes became our hero; they saved our Fourth of July."

Neil Smith, Chief Marketing Officer for Hearthstone Homes, said working with and supporting the Base has been an enjoyable experience.

"Valerie makes it very easy to work with the Base," Mr. Smith said. "It's very rewarding to give

back to Offutt, because it gives so much to us in economic terms and in service to the community."

Ms. Meyer said she thinks Hearthstone's heart is in the right place.

"Of course Hearthstone Homes wants something in return, but I think they do it mostly as a service to the military," she said.



# Customer service is training priority

**By Wayne Amann**  
37<sup>th</sup> Services Division

The phrase, "Would you like fries with that," is more than a fast-food one-liner.

In its own way it symbolizes customer service.

For the nearly 1,800 employees of the 37<sup>th</sup> Services Division, customer service is by design. From day one the training emphasis is placed on giving people what they want, when they want, how they want it and to come back for more.

"The military, dependents and civilians can get every service outside the gate that we offer. But, what keeps them at Lackland," 37<sup>th</sup> Services Education and Training Manager Rocky Williams said, "is outstanding customer service, the lifeblood of this organization. Without it we cease to exist."

A significant portion of the weekly Newcomer Class, taught by Mr. Williams in the Training Lab of the Kelly Field Inn, deals with the vital role customer service plays in the customer satisfaction equation. Five-hundred newcomers are processed in the division annually.

They're taught good customer service is achieved by: welcoming the customer to their facility; taking care of a customer's needs in a courteous and polite way; saying thank you; inviting them back; using the customer's name when it can be seen and having a good attitude.

Dealing with difficult customers is also addressed. According to the briefing, 95 percent of unsatisfied customers return if they feel their problem was solved in a professional way. All it takes is listening to customers carefully, apologizing for



**Rocky Williams, 37<sup>th</sup> Services Division education and training manager at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, makes a point during a recent weekly Services Newcomer Class in the Kelly USA Training Lab. Photo by Wayne Amann**

their inconvenience, solving their problem quickly and efficiently plus thanking them and inviting them back.

"I've had employees tell me they tried those techniques with an irate customer and it turned everything around," Mr. Williams said. "We didn't lose that customer because he was satisfied."

Mr. Williams emails a Customer Service Tip of the Week to the entire division. It gives employees something to think about when helping customers.

"It reminds our employees customer service needs to be number one," he said. "They're tips that can better our folks in certain areas."

Recent tips included: Expect the best when communicating with your customer. Take an optimistic approach and feel confident you can do whatever is necessary to serve your customer. Also, Be honest and fair, and follow-through on promises you make.

Last year Mr. Williams created the "Services Training News," which features articles on the importance

of training plus helpful refreshers for employees division-wide. The publication was lauded as the command standard during the 2004 Air Education and Training Command Training Manager's Conference.

Mr. Williams averages 104 ancillary training classes per year. Besides newcomers, customer service, and sexual harassment, sessions include Force Protection Condition and Anti-terrorism, job safety, telephone courtesy, food handlers, CPR and first aid. Several classes are taught in Spanish.

"If training is stagnant then your service is stagnant," Mr. Williams said. "We can't have that. We always have to be training."

Mr. Williams' vision for the division is two-fold: help every employee reach their educational goal, whether a GED or a master's degree and achieve 100 percent customer satisfaction in all 37<sup>th</sup> Services facilities.

The latter, as he teaches in the newcomer's briefing, is done one employee serving one customer one day at a time.

# Casuals keep Services running

Courtesy of  
460th Services Division

Sometimes the military calls upon people to do things they never imagined — case in point, several Army Soldiers currently on casual status and assigned to the 460th Services Division at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.

Soldiers like Private 1st Class Erik Gohl. The private came to Buckley assigned to the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion but was placed on casual status while awaiting a security clearance to do his job.

Due to the graciousness of his unit, this exceptional soldier was detailed to services to assist in Quality Assurance and food service operations. Several units on base have Soldiers and Airmen in “casual” status. A status that means they are awaiting their clearance.

During this time, young Soldiers either assist in their unit or are farmed out to other units that may need assistance. One such unit is the services food service team who utilize their “casuals” in a different way.

They put these Soldiers in important positions that directly help the base and community. They have a direct influence on the base, and their efforts do not go unnoticed. Careful coordination with the 743rd is required to pull this off because of the important position that Private Gohl fills.

Private Gohl, a California native, has been an invaluable asset to the Food Service Team in the past few months. During that time he has performed duties that far exceed the responsibilities of his grade.



From left, Private 1st Class Erik Gohl and Francisco Velazquez, 460th Services Division, Gen. Donald Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, and Col. Martin Whelan, 460th Space Wing vice commander, speak at the dining facility during a recent visit. Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith

Some of Private Gohl's accomplishments include: becoming QAE phase 1 and 2 certified (scored a 95 percent of his phase one training); being appointed by the contracting officer as QAE for the Food Service Contract; monitoring the \$1.4 million contract; providing support for many base and community events; acting as an ambassador to special guests; consolidating and reconciling over \$300 thousand yearly in income; monitoring contract budgets and assisting the food team in other related areas.

Private Gohl has hosted and coordinated many special Dining Facility events to include — Gen. Donald G. Cook's, Air Education and Training Command commander, visit with a British Air Marshall, the Colorado Rockies baseball team and the Heartlink luncheon.

He also volunteered to assist the community by setting up the base

Wacky Fashion Show and Tops in Blue, and is currently assisting on the base blood drive. Private Gohl is always the first one to raise his hand to volunteer for weekends and night shifts. He is always focused accomplishing the mission, according to Tech. Sgt. Dave Beyer, chief quality assurance evaluator

“The 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion has been awesome in supporting our operations,” said Sergeant Beyer. “Private Gohl exemplifies what an outstanding Soldier is by definition. He is by far one of the finest Soldiers I have ever worked with and we are very thankful to have him as an addition to our services team.”

The 460th Service Division is proud to have him as an integral part of their team and would like to thank the 743rd MI BN for their relentless and continued support, Sergeant Beyer said.

## '3C Challenge' promotes camaraderie

By Lanorris Askew  
Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Lynne Brackett and the staff at the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Smith Community Center wanted to come up with a way to help people at Robins get out and have some fun while also improving their team building skills.

After a few weeks with their thinking caps on, the "3C Challenge" was born.

"The three 'Cs' stand for commitment, camaraderie and cohesiveness because that's what we're promoting," said the community center director. "I tell people to come out and have fun because the games are silly, but fun."

If you've ever wanted to play pool with a remote control car or become a human game piece in a giant trivial pursuit game, this challenge is for you.

According to Ms. Brackett, the program is loosely based on the commander's trophy points concept where groups and squadrons receive points for winning various athletic events.

In the 3C Challenge, however, you receive pogs, which are small plastic coins, just for participation and even more if you place first, second or third in the competitions. The squadron collecting the most pogs in a quarter wins a

traveling trophy and base-wide recognition.

"That's the fun thing about it," said Ms. Brackett. "You're actually given something you can hold in your hand, so you feel like you've actually accomplished something."

The program kicked off in January and although it's been a slow start, Ms. Brackett has high hopes.

"I know that going out and playing games like remote control pool or giant trivia will never be the answer to solving problems that some of these people have," she said, "but it offers alternatives. It gives them something to do as well as a way to get to know

other people in their work areas."

An entire year of events has been planned, but Ms. Brackett said if people have their own ideas, she is always open to them.

"The competitions we offer don't require you to be a super athlete or even particularly good at the events," she said, "because they're for fun. You can bring your friends from work or from the dorms to form teams or you can even bring your family."

"The games are structured to reach a wide range of people and are open to military, civilians and contractors."



### Dance fever

Peyton Ploetz, 2 years old, standing in the pink shirt and daughter of Capt. Charles Ploetz, and Christina Isabel Garza in the red shirt, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Andrew Garza, dance on their chairs as the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders perform on stage in the Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Fitness Center recently. The cheerleaders performed at U.S. military bases in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Iceland as a United Services Organization tour. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey





Staff Sgt. Sean Seeley, 140<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, reads "Tacky the Penguin" to Child Development Center children at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. Sergeant Seeley's son, bottom right, was in the class. Photos by Penny Freundner

# Joy of reading

## ***Buckley Child Development Center hosts Literacy Day in pajamas***



Senior Airman Gabrielle Santiago, 566<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Squadron, reads a book to 1-year-olds Brye Thompson and Joseph Houck. Airman Santiago attended the Literacy Day to read to her son and his class.

**By Penny Freundner**  
Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.,  
Public Affairs

Big books, small books, short and tall books. Books were the point of interest at the Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., Child Development Center as the staff promoted Literacy Day recently.

Parents, providers and volunteers were invited to read to the children at the CDC for Literacy and Pajama Day, which was held to promote literacy and language in children and encourage them to read. The children also were allowed to wear pajamas for the day.

"I always read to my daughter and that the center encourages it here makes me proud that my child attends," said Army Sgt. Lakysa Dixon, Denver Military Entrance Processing Station.

The CDC asked her to share her daughter's favorite books to the classroom.

Senior Airman Gabrielle Santiago, 566<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Squadron, read to her son's classroom and said she liked seeing how the children were interested in the books and pictures.

"It is important to have parents working with the CDC as a team," said Gerri Bain, assistant director of the CDC. Ms. Bain said several parents stopped by during the day to read books.

Tristan Seeley, 4, one of the children enrolled at the center, said he is happy that his dad came to read to the class. His dad read the book "Just like you" by Jan Fearnley. His son's favorite part was when the bunny went to sleep.

"Learning how to read involves everybody," said Ava Pettit-Martin, care provider for the kindergarten class. She said the children love when parents come out to read to them and it's a great thing to celebrate literacy.

Avery Castro, 1, sits with book in hand during the Literacy Day. She was reading the book while waiting for the next activity to start.





# Robins CDCs celebrate reading, Dr. Seuss' birthday

## *Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss*



Second Lt. Allegra Mickles reads to 3-year-olds in Lisa Smith's class at the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Child Development Center East recently. Xavier Hicks sits on her lap. The centers celebrated reading and Dr. Seuss' birthday by eating green eggs and ham for breakfast, and inviting parents to read to their child's class. Photo by Sue Sapp

*If you like green eggs and ham  
Even if your name's not Sam  
This week the Robins CDC  
Was the place for you to be.*

*Big kids, little kids, they all ate ham  
And green eggs in their mouths did cram.  
They giggled and ogled and filled up with glee,  
Truly a funny and bright sight to see.*

*The man whose drawings and words were such fun,  
Who lit children's minds with brilliance and pun,  
Came alive on a day he's remembered the most  
"Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss" was heard coast to coast.*

*Remembering a man with a style that was grand,  
A man who with rhymes took a definite stand,  
To make reading stories a fun thing, not work  
And put in his poems and rhymes such a quirk.*

*We never, no never, knew what he would write,  
Towns such as Whoville came clearly in sight.  
Horton, whose fame was hearing a Who,  
Yertle the Turtle, The Jungle of Nool.*

*Kids who would not, could not read  
Changed their minds with lightning speed  
When they entered a world of the unsurmisable,  
The wonderful world of Theodor Seuss Geisel.*

*By Chrissy Zdrakas*

# Winds of change at Dover Aero Club

## *Temporary move prelim to permanent facility*

By Theresa Krause  
436th Services Squadron

The Dover Air Force Base, Del., Aero Club recently made its first move towards major facility improvements by relocating their main office from Bldg. 1303 to Bldg. 447, which is located next to the Base Theater. The main office conducts daily operations, flight/ground training classes and houses the LaserGrade Testing center.

This new location is a temporary move, according to Joe Nickle, 436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Aero Club manager. "Funds do not always flow at the same time," said Mr. Nickle. "The Appropriated Funds to demolish Bldg. 1303 were approved for fiscal 2005, while the Non-appropriated Funds to construct a new Aero Club facility are being considered for fiscal 2006.

"As a result we will operate from Bldg. 447 until we get the

green light for our permanent location."

However, some Aero Club operations will continue to be split between the old and new locations. The flight operations will move to two temporary trailers located on the Aero Club's current airfield tarmac commonly referred to as 'Christmas Tree Pad 6'.

"Unfortunately this will add an additional step for current flyers as they will have to come to the office for the checkout procedures and then drive to the aircraft. Also, when they return, they will need to come back to the office to check back in," said Mr. Nickle. "Keep in mind that this is temporary and we are looking forward to finally settling into our permanent location."

The new Aero Club facility, which will be located approximately 100 yards south of Bldg. 1303, will house all operations to include

airplane maintenance, the LaserGrade Testing Center, flight/ground training classrooms and staff offices.

"Our new location will be highly visible and potential new members will be able to locate us easily," said Mr. Nickle. "Current members will also get to enjoy the many new amenities that come with a new facility designed specifically for Aero Club operations."

In the meantime, the Aero Club is pressing ahead with new programs such as "You're Cleared for Takeoff" that kicked-off in March. This program is geared towards enhancing the current membership. Prizes consisting of state of the art handheld two-way radios, \$200 gift certificates and flight bags can be won at monthly safety meetings. This promotion ends on June 30.

Aero Club office operating hours remain the same, Monday - Friday 9 am to 5 p.m.



### ***Service with a smile***

Shelia Idigpio, 436th Services Squadron business flight chief, along with Staff Sgt. Cedric Perkinson, 436th SVS food services accountant, serve lunch at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base, Del. recently. The two volunteered to serve the meal, showing support for those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Julie Rich

# Shaw Outdoor Recreation hosts open house

**By Tarsha Storey**  
**Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.,**  
**Public Affairs**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation Center at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., held its first open house celebration recently to showcase the recreational services available to Team Shaw and all Department of Defense authorized members, ranging from skeet to trap to camper and cabin rentals.

Representatives from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina State Parks Department also supported

the event with information about recreation in the Palmetto State.

"This event helps get the word out on what we have to offer," said Maj. Gilbert Eddy, 20<sup>th</sup> SVS commander. "Unfortunately, because of its location, the recreation center sometimes gets overlooked. We want members to know the great deals we offer."

The recreation center offers rentals on equipment for camping, sports, boating, parties and other equipment," said Bobby Cartrett, 20<sup>th</sup> SVS Outdoor Recreation director.

"We are here for Team Shaw," he said.



Justin Taylor tests a paintball gun while shooting a target during the Outdoor Recreation open house. Photos by Tech. Sgt. James Arrowood

From left, Terry Rogers, Wateree recreation manager, holds a catfish while Anna Lee Higgins tries to get her son Jonah to feel the smooth skin of the fish.





# Youth Center honors children with carnival



Dover Air Force Base, Del., team members enjoyed visiting all the different booths for games, information and prizes during the Month of the Military Child carnival at the Youth Center. Photo by Jason Minto

**By April Crampton**  
436th Services Squadron

April was a time when Dover Air Force Base, Del., shows its appreciation for the youngest members of the military family, the children, by celebrating the Month of the Military Child.

The Youth Center celebrated this special month by hosting its 10<sup>th</sup> annual MOMC carnival.

"This free carnival was our way of showing the families that they are special and we enjoy being able to give them a day of fun," said Gary

Winings, Youth Center director. "It is also a great place to gather and get information. I truly take great pleasure in being able to help plan and implement our carnival."

"We had game and information booths, clowns, face painting, prizes, giveaways and much more during the carnival," said Roxanne Lee, YC assistant director. "Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Dog also attended the carnival to visit with the children.

According to Ms. Lee, the Youth Center receives enormous support from the base and local community

for this event each year through cash and prize donations, sponsors and volunteers.

The carnival has grown over the years to include a record number of people in attendance, more prizes, giveaways and support.

"This year we had a compact disc player, CD's, DVD's, a fishing game, golf and bowling games and many other door prizes," said Ms. Lee. "The support we get truly makes a difference. It helps the children feel remembered and appreciated."

## ***Breakfast brings parents, children together***

Senior Airman Allan Collins, 319<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, and his wife enjoy breakfast with their son. Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., parents were invited to join their children for breakfast in observance of the Month of the Young Child. Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke





## Stop scratching!

# Dover vet offers flea, tick prevention, personal advice

**By Theresa Krause**  
436<sup>th</sup> Services  
Squadron

Spring is here and so is flea and tick season. Whether you have indoor or outdoor pets, now is the time to guard them against these parasites with a trip to the Veterinary Treatment Facility.

According to Dr. Moses Lewis, 436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron veterinarian at Dover Air Force Base, Del., there are more than 200 species of fleas in the United States, and the main trouble maker for pets is the cat flea. Happy to feed on anyone in the household — cat, dog or human — these wingless insects will most likely choose a pet, whose fur provides warm camouflage for their breeding ground.

According to Dr. Lewis, common household fleas don't usually

transmit diseases to people. The tiny insects are mainly "just a nuisance and generally cause a lot of itching and scratching. They may also cause some discomfort due to possible allergic flea bite dermatitis."

"Fleas, however, can cause tape-worm infestation and anemia in young, old and sick pets," said Dr. Lewis. "Also, some pets are extremely allergic to flea bites. In these pets, fleas may cause a rash, inflammation, and hair loss."

Ticks on the other hand are not insects, according to Dr. Lewis. They are part of the arachnid family of which mites, spiders, and scorpions are members.

"Ticks may carry various infectious organisms that can transmit diseases to cats and dogs," said Dr. Lewis. "Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted



**"Lucky" poses for a photo during her first visit to the 436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Vet Clinic while Ronnie Kalmbacher, 436<sup>th</sup> SVS animal health technician, gives owner Don Carpenter general canine health care tips. Photo by Theresa Krause**

Fever are two well known diseases that can result from a tick bite."

To get the upper hand on these parasites, most base veterinary treatment facilities carry topical medications that provide fast, effective and convenient treat-

ment to control fleas and ticks.

"Protecting your pet from the discomfort and illness caused by fleas and ticks should be part of his or her overall routine health maintenance," said Dr. Lewis. "Remember, left uncon-

trolled, these pests can infest not just your cat or dog, but your entire house and possibly you."

Active duty, retirees, and activated reservists on orders for more than 30 days and their family members are eligible to use this program and the facility.

# Warren's cemetery

## *History as rich as the base itself*

The cemetery at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., is rich in history. Six hundred Soldiers, Airmen, family members and civilians are currently laid to rest behind these gates. Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey



---

**By Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey**  
**F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Public Affairs**

---

The historical significance of F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., is evident the moment one drives through the front gate. From the historic brick buildings along Randall Avenue to the Bells of Balangiga, history is unavoidable.

The base's cemetery is no exception. It began in 1867 under the direction of Gen. John Stevenson, Fort D.A. Russell's first commander. The first to be buried was Pvt. John Saunders, Company G, 30th Infantry, who died Dec. 3 1867. At present time, around 600 Soldiers, Airmen, dependents and civilians are buried there.

Thomas Fahrer, 90th Services Squadron deputy chief, inherited the job of maintaining reservations and records for the cemetery after accepting his position in November 2000. In his office he holds the original hand-written record books depicting each internment. The old, yet meticulously well-kept, books unlock the mysteries surrounding

the untimely deaths of the earliest Fort D.A. Russell's inhabitants.

Though not always complete, each line contains space for a name, rank, company, unit, hometown and cause of death. Most causes of death, though common back then, are now foreign in the 21st Century. For example, several small dependent children are listed to have died of the scarlet fever epidemic in 1871, while others show a cause of death as cholera, diarrhea or a gunshot wound, for example. One man's cause of death was listed as "run over by wagon," while another was "found on railroad tracks, frozen to death."

Mr. Fahrer said he has a soft spot for the base's cemetery.

"When I was in Europe, I visited an American cemetery in Luxembourg where WWII Soldiers, including General Patton are buried. It was maintained immaculately. That is not much different than the Cavalry days," he said. "They deserve that recognition as well."

The 90th Civil Engineer Squadron maintains the site as part of a ground's contract.

In the southeast corner of the cemetery, fenced off from the main part, lie the graves of one Italian and eight German prisoners of war from World War II.

On Memorial Day, in addition to the American flags placed on each headstone, eight German flags and one Italian are placed on the POW's headstones. During Germany's celebration of their memorial day each November, the German Embassy provides money for flowers to be placed on the headstones as well, according to the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base Cemetery Grave Guide.

Through the Fort D.A. Russell Cavalry days, WWII and even today, those who have found their final resting place in Warren's cemetery join one another on the pages of history that are as rich as the base itself.

# Buckley Services hosts hit with

Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith  
Barry Neal, also known as "The Counselor of Love," visited Buckley recently along with Melanie Reno to give Love & Laughter attendees a night of laughs. The duo told jokes mainly about love, relationships, marriage and children.



**By Penny Freundner**  
**Buckley Air Force**  
**Base, Colo., Public**  
**Affairs**

Good company, good food and good comedy were what the 460<sup>th</sup> Services Division served up at the Love & Laughter Comedy Night at the Colorado Air National Guard Dining Facility recently.

Services hosted the comedy show with more than 100 guests for dinner

and comedy. Italian food and many different kinds of refreshments were on the menu.

Randy Henline, 460<sup>th</sup> Services director, opened the show with a few jokes. Melanie Reno and Barry Neal "The Counselor of Love," were the performers for the evening.

Ms. Reno's jokes were about dating and Mr. Neal jokes were about marriage and children.

Staff Sgt. Lori Dutton, 460<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Executive Support Staff, said the show was funny, the dinner was good and the jokes were clean.

Sergeant Dutton added that she enjoyed the joke about the honeymoon, "the side that you pick to sleep on is the side you will sleep on forever," and that she believes it's very true. Sergeant Dutton

also enjoyed Mr. Neal's jokes about when couples get married, the man stops making any of the decisions.

Mr. Henline said the event turned out to be a big success.

"The reason it was such a big hit was because we had such diverse participation," he said.

"There were retirees, Active Duty, National Guard and civilians in atten-

dance, which was the first such event that we've had such a great variety of people. The quality of the support we had with the food sponsors and the service by the 140<sup>th</sup> Services Flight was outstanding. The comedians were great and everybody loved the food, which made the evening a huge success for services and the base."

# Patrick Services focuses on keeping local profits local

**By Theresa Amlong**  
45th Services Squadron

Spend here, save here. That was the thrust behind the Services Focus Event held recently at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Air Force Space Command leadership has placed a renewed emphasis on explaining the benefits of utilizing Services activities; so the 45th Services Squadron took the message to 45th Space Wing group commanders, squadron commanders, first sergeants and chiefs.

"Services leadership wants to let folks know what we offer, why it's important to participate, and the benefits they receive when using our programs," said Bill DeCoux, 45th Services Deputy Commander. "We want them to understand the value added for them to keep their business on base and show them that it is worth driving back after duty hours. The money they spend here stays here and our prices are extremely competitive."

Patrick's 45th Services Squadron, consisting of approximately 18 separate "small businesses," includes such various activities as the Manatee Cove Golf Course, Rocket Lanes Bowling Center, Outdoor Recreation, and Information Tickets and Travel.

The profit generated in one activity is re-invested in equipment and supplies in these "small businesses."

The money spent at Patrick stays at Patrick.

Services leadership generates a yearly requirements list based on expected profits.

The list is presented to the Non-Appropriated Fund Council, chaired by the mission support group commander, and recommended for approval to the space wing commander.

With this approved list, Services spends profits to keep golf carts new, obtain modern boats and equipment at Outdoor Recreation, provide protective deck finishing at the

Marina, upgrade software at the Vet Clinic and update facilities, such as the Bowling Center snack bar renovation and interior face lifts to Information Ticket and Tour and Outdoor Recreation.

Also, Services prices are hard to beat. Savings compared to businesses downtown range from 20-65 percent.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," said Mr. DeCoux. "The most important thing is that the money stays within our own community."

## Dyess opens 'Bomb Shelter'

Right, Tanya Harencak, wife of 7th Bomb Wing commander, Col. Garrett Harencak, works to reupholster the bar stools at the new enlisted lounge. All the Bomb Shelter's bar stools have been covered with desert camouflage uniforms. Photos by Senior Airman Matthew Rosine



Left, A World War I-era helmet and some aged Air Force enlisted stripes grace the bar of the Bomb Shelter. Squadrons across Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, donated items to help bring an Air Force ambiance to the club.





# Grand opening at Boomers kicks off in style

Col. Irvin Lee, 6th Mission Support Group commander, assists Debbie Butler, Enlisted Club manager, with the ribbon cutting at the recent grand opening of Boomers Bar and Grill.  
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Lingefelt



**By Senior Airman Robin Drake**  
**MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Public Affairs**

Boomers opened with a "boom."

Patrons enjoyed free food, prizes and fun during the recent grand opening of Boomers Bar and Grill located inside the Surf's

Edge Club at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

The event kicked off with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Col. Irvin Lee, 6th Mission Support Group commander, and Debbie Butler, Enlisted Club manager.

Guests in attendance included the Bellamy Brothers, representatives

from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, the Tampa Bay Lightning, Hooters Restaurant and Ticketmaster.

Patrons experienced a wide range of amenities that included two new pool tables and dart boards, a juke box and video game area. Booths with personal TV's, two

projection TV's, and a state of the art sound, light and video system.

"With this new and improved look the club is more up to date than before," said Butler.

In addition to the new look, a full-service bar and a lunch and dinner menu, offering an array of food

choices, are now available.

Those in attendance for the grand opening were able to sample a free buffet that included menu items.

Raffle tickets were handed out and prizes were awarded to those lucky individuals with the winning numbers.

## *Buckley hosts Operation Purple Camp for area youth*

**By 1st Lt. Carla Gleason**  
**Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., Public Affairs**

The Buckley Air Force Services Youth Program was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the National Military Family Association to offer a summer "boot camp" program to military dependents of deployed personnel from Buckley AFB and surrounding bases.

According to the National Military Family Association Web site, the goal of Operation Purple sum-

mer camps is to give military children tools to help deal with the stresses that result from a parent's deployment.

These free summer camps are for the children of our nation's deployed service members, in any service branch, including the National Guard and Reservists.

Buckley Air Force Base hosted its 2005 Operation Purple Camp Buckley here from June 13-17.

The camp was open to military dependents ages 10-18 with a deployed family member.

The camp featured "boot camp" activities in which children will live and learn in the conditions deployed personnel might experience. Children slept in military tents, enjoyed meals at the High Frontier Dining Facility, and showered at the base fitness center.

Attendees participated in team building activities that increased their leadership, decision making, and conflict resolution skills. Other activities included arts and crafts, journal writing and group discussions. Cost was free.

# Oak Ridge Boys: An 'American Made' concert

**By 1st Lt. Ed Gulick  
Whiteman Air Force  
Base, Mo., Public  
Affairs**

For the first time, the Grammy Award-winning country music group the Oak Ridge Boys performed a free concert for Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., at the 5-bay hangar.

"You are the tip of the spear — the invisible tip," said Oak Ridge Boy singer Joe Bonsall, during the concert.

The visit was sponsored by Robert Rosenthal's "Spirit

of America Tour." The nonprofit organization seeks country music acts to donate time and talent to play at stateside military bases, said Whiteman's event coordinator Meladee Bay.

Mrs. Bay, 509th Services Squadron, said the original idea came when a Northrop Grumman executive sat next to Mr. Rosenthal on a commercial flight and discussed the possibility of bringing an act to Whiteman. Once the date was confirmed, Mrs.

Bay set to work, preparing every detail of the visit. In the end, Mrs. Bay described the event as a huge success.

"The music was wonderful, the audience was enthusiastic and it was a great day," she said. "But none of it could have happened without the wonderful support of the base. I had great people help with the coordination and great volunteers who came out (Sunday) to help with moving the



**After the concert, the Oak Ridge Boys spoke with base members and signed autographs. Here, William Lee Golden signs an autograph for Master Sgt. Regina Anderson, 509th Bomb Wing. Photos by Master Sgt. Gregory Scott**

stage and all the equipment that was necessary."

The Oaks showed their thanks while performing. Capt. Corey Hummel, 509th Operations Support Squadron, and his family were among the more than 800 Team Whiteman members who attended the concert.

"I've been a fan of them for a long time," the weather flight commander said. "I thought it (the concert) was awesome that they came and payed tribute to us."

Master Sgt. Regina Anderson, 509th Bomb Wing, hadn't planned on

attending the concert, but was inspired by their message.

"My first reaction was 'Why?'" Sergeant Andersen said. "But when we went to see them, the message they brought us of hope and freedom and a reminder of how important our mission is was overwhelming ... and when we sang the national anthem together, it brought tears to my eyes."

"I live in the greatest country in the world," Mr. Rosenthal said, "because you are keeping it the greatest country in the world."



**Lt. Col. Scott Young, 509th Operations Group, explains the B-2 bomb bay to the Oak Ridge Boys members. A fact little known to most, the Oak Ridge Boys have distant ties to the 509th Bomb Wing. The original ORB group, conceived in 1943 as the Oak Ridge Quartet, began performing country and gospel music in Oak Ridge, Tenn. — entertaining personnel associated with the Manhattan project to develop the atomic bomb. That weapon would later be dropped by Col. Paul Tibbets Jr. of the 509th Composite Group.**

## Names, faces in the news

### **Minot Services squadron changes hands**

Maj. Lisa McColgan assumed command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., from Lt. Col. Robert Marasco in a change of command ceremony April 1 in the Jimmy Doolittle Center.

### **Welsh woman of the year**

Lorri Welsh, 90<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, has been is one of seven women named Federal Women of the Year at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. Winners were selected based on self development and training efforts, community and installation activities, job performance and knowledge, and leadership qualities.

### **Quarterly Agency award winners named**

The following individuals were selected as quarterly winners for Air Force Services Agency, January to March 2005. They have made significant contributions to the success of this organization and have represented us well in our community.

They also competed in the Small Unit Awards competition at Randolph

Air Force Base, Texas, where Barbara Johnson won the Civilian Category III award

Military:  
Company Grade Officer: 1st Lt. Michael Mitchell

Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Matthew Morgan

NCO: Staff Sgt. Ty Reyes

Civilian:

Category I: Janeth Coleman

Category II: Lillian Zabawczuk

Category III: Barbara Johnson

### **Two graduate from Grand Forks ALS**

Senior Airmen Thomas Metcalf and Donice West, 319<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., were two of 26 senior airmen to graduate from the April Airmen Leadership School.

### **Selected for promotion to captain**

First Lt. James Parker from the 355<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., has been selected for promotion to captain.



### **2005 Iron Chef competition heats up**

Senior Airman Michael Perry, 436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron cook, pours broth off beef cubes, as he prepares his meal entry for the first quarter Iron Chef competition at Dover Air Force Base, Del. His winning meal was honey barbecued beef cubes on white rice, broccoli spears covered with cheese and a fruit basket. Photo by April Crampton



### **Brooks at the finals**

Members of the Brooks City-Base Honor Guard presented the colors at game one of the NBA Championships at the SBC center. Pictured with ESPN analyst David Aldrich (center) are (front row) Airman Robert Brotz, Staff Sgt. Jesson Pareja, Staff Sgt. Kimberly Parks and (back row) 2nd Lt. Jonathan Green, Staff Sgt. Robert George, Airman 1st Class Brian Braley and Senior Airman Jonathan Lanning. Photo courtesy 2nd Lt. Jonathan Green



# NEWS PEOPLE

## A survivor's story –

By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Juanika Glover  
Kunsan Air Base,  
Korea, Public Affairs

Everyone has a story. A lot of stories are similar: the first day at kindergarten, high school prom, marriage, children, retirement and grandchildren.

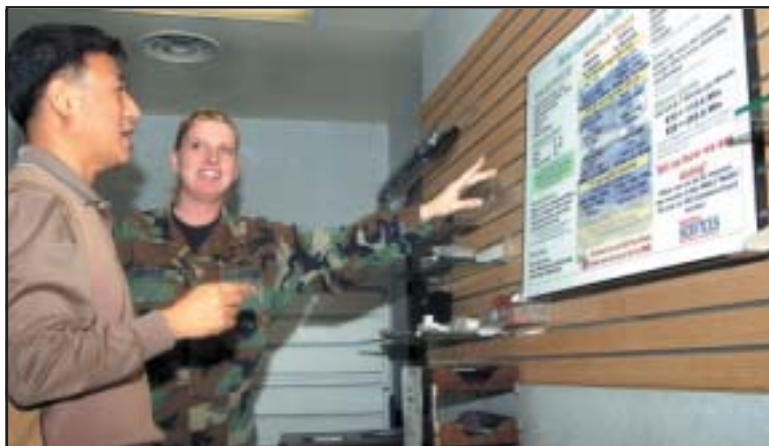
Then there are stories that don't follow the normal path.

For Staff Sgt. Michelle Jeffries, 8<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron assistant community center director, the path that brought her into the Air Force was a bumpy ride at best.

"My parents separated when I was two years old," she said. "My young mother couldn't take care of my three siblings and me, so she abandoned us when I was a toddler."

Sergeant Jeffries said her mother left them in a trailer and called child protective services to report the incident.

"She watched by the pay phone as we were taken away," said Ser-



**Staff Sgt. Michelle Jeffries, 8th Services Squadron assistant community center director at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, goes over the latest event promotions with a Services civilian. Throughout her life and career, Sergeant Jeffries faced the loss of loved ones, abandonment and job difficulties. However, with the help of mentors and senior leaders who gave her a second chance, she has overcome many obstacles and made a big comeback. Photo by Senior Airman Karina Shellman**

geant Jeffries. "I spent the next five years in and out of foster homes. Then I was adopted at the age of nine and reunited with my siblings."

Unfortunately, Sergeant Jeffries was adopted into a dysfunctional family. At 17, she moved out with some friends. At 18, she graduated with honors from Koughtan High School in Hampton, Va., with a science scholarship. After school, she decided to join the Marines.

However, her first military career end-

ed during basic training when she found out her brother committed suicide. Sergeant Jeffries left the Marines and decided to try again later.

"After my brother's death, I searched for my father and found out he was stationed at Castle Air Force Base in California," she said. "He had been searching for us as well and had no idea we had been abandoned. My father and I clicked instantly and bonded."

Sergeant Jeffries spent the next cou-

ple of years working hard but barely made ends meet. She decided to move back to Virginia, but got involved with the wrong crowd. As young people sometimes do, she followed her peers and got into trouble.

"I thought about my dad and decided to join the military again. I wanted my father to be proud of me, and I wanted to show him I could get my life back together," the sergeant said.

Continued on page  
34



## Airman tackles adversity, takes road less traveled, learns valuable life changing lessons

Continued from page 33

This time, she decided to check out the Air Force.

"I wanted the stability the military provided because the civilian world wasn't cutting it for me or for the goals I wanted to achieve," she said.

Sergeant Jeffries spent the next few years working at Schriever AFB, Colo., and later transferred to Malmstrom AFB, Mont. But her bright light began to dim when she found out she might have cancer. She paid numerous visits to the Mount Zion Cancer Research Center before being told everything was going to be okay. The prognosis: she was cancer free.

While working through the stress of the cancer scare, Sergeant Jeffries was also working in what she calls a 'hostile' work environment.

"That point in my life was the beginning of what became the initial build

*"I'm a survivor. Some days are harder than others, but every day I'm glad I didn't give up and get out."  
-- Staff Sgt. Michelle Jeffries*

up of bad things to come. I ended up getting what I thought was a 'career ending' enlisted performance report," she said.

Along with the negative EPR, Sergeant Jeffries also received a nonjudicial punishment in early 2002.

"It sure educated me," she said. "I thought my career was over. I became severely depressed and was started on a medication that did more damage than good."

Things began to turn around for Sergeant Jeffries when Senior Master Sgt. Darlene Johnson, at the time the 341<sup>st</sup> Services Squadron superintendent, entered her life.

"I was an emotional wreck, but she saw my potential and took a risk," the staff sergeant said. "She took the time to really listen

and helped me find my inner strength."

Sergeant Jeffries began to bounce back. During that time, Sergeant Johnson selected Sergeant Jeffries to deploy as part of her team to Pakistan. During her time in the country, she had the opportunity to set up tours for celebrities like Robin Williams.

"It was truly the highlight of my career," she said. In 2003, she interviewed with the commander of the 564<sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron for the position of noncommissioned officer in charge of the squadron's missile chefs.

"I knew I had a shaky past, but I told him, 'Sir, I have nowhere to go but up, as I've already been to the bottom.' So he took a chance and hired me, even with the bad EPR and the fact that I

had gone up against two people with firewall five EPRs."

Sergeant Jeffries didn't let her commander down.

Following her new assignment, she earned NCO of the year for the 564<sup>th</sup> MS in 2003. She was a nominee for Air Force Space Command's chief of the year award. At Kunsan Air Base, Korea, she has since won the 8<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron and 8<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group NCO of the quarter awards.

Unfortunately, Sergeant Jeffries suffered the loss of three family members while she's been at Kunsan. Through it all, she manages to bounce back.

"I'm a survivor," she said. "Some days are harder than others, but every day I'm glad I didn't give up and get out. All the ups and downs in my life had made me a stronger person today. I'm 32 now and I swore I'd never see 30."

Because of her experiences, Ser-

geant Jeffries said she can relate to her troops and provide them with sound advice for their futures.

"I now know life is all about the choices you make and not the choices other people make for you," she said.

Currently, the bad EPR Sergeant Jeffries received three years ago is up for review. She hopes it will be removed from her record, but she doesn't dwell on it. She also eventually found her mother and was able to forgive her for abandoning her as a child.

"My life at times has been anything but secure," she said, "but being in the military has changed all that. I enjoy having goals again because it keeps me focused."

Sergeant Jeffries said she often reflects on a quote that she feels suits her and her life.

"Don't judge a book by its cover because you never know what each chapter holds."

# Andrews youth dedicated to Youth Center

By Margo Turner

Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Public Affairs

The Youth Center on Andrews Air Force Base, Md., is the second home to 16-year-old Mark Watson, son of Tech. Sgt. Terry Burrell, 89th Security Forces Squadron armory NCOIC, and the 2005 Andrews Youth of the Year, sponsored by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Mark said the Youth Center provides him with a friendly environment and plenty of activities. "This makes me feel thankful that I have somewhere to go to have fun," he said.

In the nine years he has been a member, Mark has been involved in the various programs the Youth Center offers.

When he was 6 years old, he started playing soccer in the sports program. In his early teens, he assisted the staff with art projects and helped plan art activities. As a junior camp counselor, Mark accompanied children on field trips.

During a 4-H outdoor adventure camp attended by 60 other teens

from various states, Mark participated in rope, hiking, camping and canoe building activities.

"When some of the teens thought they could not go on with the activities, Mark was always there to say a funny joke or give a kind word that helped the teens to go on," said Jessie Jackson, Youth Center teen coordinator.

Mark's dedication to service at the Youth Center knows no bounds. He can be found keeping score at sports games, sweeping the gym floor and assisting the sports director. He also sets up carnival games and mans games for the Harvest Festival.

He is currently the Keystone Club president. The Keystone Club is an organization at the Youth Center that encourages teen leadership. Group members deliver the "Spotlight," an event information magazine the 89th Services Squadron Marketing Office publishes, to military families on base.

Mark said he enjoys volunteering at the Youth Center because the staff has positive mentors. He can talk to them about anything.



Mark Watson (right), 16-year-old son of Tech. Sgt. Terry Burrell, 89th Security Forces Squadron armory NCOIC, plays a one-on-one basketball game with Bruce Yarborough, 10, son of Master Sgt. Bruce Yarborough, 201st Airlift Squadron aircraft preudraulics systems shop chief.

When he graduates next year, Mark plans to enter Towson University in Towson, Md. He wants to major in pre-med and later attend an optometry school.

Mark said he believes in applying himself and working hard because he knows it will pay off in the end.

## Ellsworth's spotlight is on:

**Airman 1st Class Tiffany Erwin, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., 28th Services Squadron front desk clerk.**

What does your job entail? *Checking people in and out of our hotel and taking care of the customer's needs*

Where are you from? *Covington, Ky.*

What do you like about the Air Force? *I like the structure and how it all feels like a big family. It's nice to know there are always people there to take care of you if you need them.*

What do you do in your spare time? *I spend a lot of time reading and writing. Plus, I go to school, so that takes up a lot of my spare time.*

What's your earliest memory? *It's of a picnic I was having with my family. My mom and dad were both there, along with my brothers and sisters. I remember feeling really content.*



## Profile: Matt Cox, F.E. Warren Auto Skills

**Courtesy F.E. Warren  
Air Force Base, Wyo.,  
Public Affairs**

When Aaron Ginn started working at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. Auto Skills Center as a 17-year-old high school senior, his duties were relegated to sweeping the garage floor and doling out tools to more experienced mechanics like an operating room assistant.

Nine years later he's the lead surgeon.

Mr. Ginn has been the auto skills center manager since 2002, and the resume he's built since his days as a recreation aide nine years ago would make Mr. Goodwrench jealous.

"I've always been interested in anything with a motor," he said. "I wouldn't be happy doing anything else."

Fueled by the oil coursing through his veins, Mr. Ginn has an unrelenting passion for fixing anything with four wheels and an engine.

He has more certifications than all

three Pep Boys: ASE master certification; advanced engine performance certification; GM fuel injection and advanced engine diagnostics certification; Air Force activity manager's certification; Air Force services activity manager's certification; and Air Force facility manager's certification, among others.

Mr. Ginn and his crew of eight work together like a well oiled machine. The staff is full of "very talented and experienced employees," according to Mr. Ginn.

Gregory Winters, ASE master technician and retired aviation mechanic; Dalbert Lake, assistant manager and retired vehicle maintenance mechanic; Gary Schafer, tools and parts attendant and retired railroad mechanic; Jeff Sams, active duty and T&P attendant; Jason Mays, active duty and T&P attendant; Rob Blevins, T&P attendant; and Paul Schoening, T&P attendant; have

more than 170 years of automotive repair experience combined. Although the staff is civilian dominated some part-time employees are active duty.

"Due to the diversity of new cars, all training is done on-the-spot," explained Mr. Ginn. "We found this to be more effective than holding classes." Customers can make traditional appointments for repair work as well.

For the gearheads who get too deep under the hood without a clue, Mr. Ginn assures his staff is only a socket wrench away.

"Customers: Please ask for help. That's what we're here for," he said.

Customer service is the top priority for Mr. Ginn and his staff. He's received many accolades from satisfied customers.

"(Mr. Ginn and his staff) have put the customer service bar at a new level," said Marvin Cox, community support flight chief, 90th Services Squadron.

After lending a desperately needed



**Nine years ago, as a 17-year-old high school senior, Aaron Ginn was a recreation aide, sweeping the garage floor and doling out tools. Today he's the F.E. Warren Auto Skills Center manager. He and his staff have more than 170 years of automobile repair experience. Air Force photo.**

helping hand to a family stranded due to car trouble, Mr. Ginn received this glowing comment from Staff Sgt. Arther Harriss III, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron: "I really can't describe my appreciation for all that he did for me and my family. I truly wish there were more people like Aaron in this world."

It's tough to argue with such high praise.

The 26-year-old civilian has recently found a new passion in life, something more important than even cars: his daughter.

The proud new father and his wife had their first child a little more than a month ago: "I love her more than anything, except my wife," he explained as only new fathers can. "Nothing, not even cars, brings me happiness like my family."



# Niagara Falls youth to attend aviation camp

**By Jerry Slipko**  
914th Services  
Marketing Director

Phillip Ables, the son of Lt. Col. Mark Ables at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., has won an experience of a lifetime. He will be attending a week long Teen Aviation Camp this June sponsored by Air Force Services and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Out of 120 applicants, Mr. Ables was one of 40 students chosen to attend this prestigious camp. He had to complete an application form, obtain letters of

recommendations from teachers, and had to complete a test about the Air Force Academy to be considered.

Here are a few questions asked him before the application was sent.

Why do you want to attend the USAF Academy for college?

**I would like to become an Air Force Officer and pilot. I would also like to continue the family tradition, set by my grandfather, great uncle, Dad, and brother, of serving our country in the Air Force.**

What do you intend to study?  
**Aeronautical or civil engineering.**

Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?

**The most influential person in my life is my father. When he was overseas fighting for our country, he would have me send him my school essays so that he could review them. He has taught me a lot about aircraft and aerodynamics. My father has done things in his life that I have only dreamed of doing.**



Phillip (right) with his brother Matthew

**Phillip Ables, right, poses with his brother, Matthew, at the Air Force Academy. Courtesy photo.**

What are your hobbies, interests, and extracurricular activities?

**I am a sophomore at Williamsville South High School and I am involved with music, varsity hockey, baseball, chess club, and**

**other school activities.**

What do you hope to learn at the Aviation Camp?

**I just want to learn as much as possible about aviation along with just to enjoy the whole experience.**

## Performing Arts Camp member selected

**By Jerry Slipko**  
914th Services  
Marketing Director



Nathan Haag

Nathan Haag, son of Tech. Sgt. Michael Haag at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., has been selected to attend the Missoula Performing Arts camp in Missoula, Mont.

The camp is sponsored by Air Force Services and the Missoula Performing Arts Academy. It is an all expense paid

week designed for teenagers aged 14-18 who are active in the performing arts.

Mr. Haag, who is in the eighth grade at Edward Town Middle School, was one of 44 selected from more than 100 applicants, to attend camp in July.

He has performed in three musicals at ETMS where he

earned lead roles in all three productions. He has been in chorus for 5 years and selected to participate in All County Chorus.

In the past, he has performed with the Niagara Experience Players, taken voice and piano and is currently taking guitar lessons. He enjoys listening to KISS and

music from the 60's, 70's and 80's.

He also enjoys talking, running and hanging out with his friends.

Nathan is enrolled in several advanced classes at ETMS and plans to attend Penn State University someday.

# Clowning serious business for Team Kirtland sergeant

**By Jennifer West**  
Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Adam Rawding, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., has an alias he doesn't mind the world learning: Binx the Clown.

In 1986, Sergeant Rawding became a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Ring in Washington. The past 19 years, he performed magic for children and adults for small and large crowds. In 1998, his interest turned to clowning and Binx the Clown was created. Binx the Clown makes balloon figures at parties and church banquets.

A former member of Clowns of America International, Sergeant Binx also served as vice president of Albuquerque's Ring 90 of Interna-

tional Brotherhood of Magicians and Ring. He was named president of Ring 90 in March.

Sergeant Rawding is a 19-year Air Force member and is family support center deputy director.

Along with Jennifer Marlowe, a University of New Mexico student employee at the family support center, Sergeant Rawding performs fund-raisers he calls Magic and Dance Extravanzas. The extravanzas includes magic, dance, escape artists and jugglers from around New Mexico who also donate their talents for the fund-raisers.

Sergeant Binx's fellow performer, Ms. Marlowe, works part time at the family support center. She also is the reigning Miss Valencia County, competing for Miss New Mexico in Alamogordo, N.M., in June.



**Binx the Clown performs at birthday parties, schools, churches and other venues.**

## Youth center employee shines

**By Katy Drost**  
71st Services Marketing

After 18 months of training, Vance Air Force Base, Calif., youth center counselor Stacey Storer can see the world from a child's eyes.

Her completion of training earned her a raise in pay, but that's not what she appre-

ciates most about the experience.

"The benefit from this is that you understand children better," Ms. Storer said. "These modules help you remember how children see the world."

The course of 15 modules requires the provider to study children's play, social skills and abilities. Questions and tests must then be completed.

Ms. Storer, works with children ages 9 through 12 at the Youth Center.

Although the modules must be completed within the first 18 months of employment, it is rare for a Youth Center counselor to stay employed long enough to complete them, said registrar Kim Winfield.

Youth center supervisor Kitt Winters said counselors are tasked with more



**Youth center counselor Stacey Storer helps Spencer Shackleford with a project. Photo by Katy Drost**

than just caring for children.

"People come here and think oh, it's easy, and then they find out it's an enrichment program," Ms. Winters

said. "You have to go through the process of learning about children's behavior, safety and health. It is very involved."

# FITNESS & SPORTS

## AF golf courses offer youth **Golf Kids**

By Sandi Dickerson  
Air Force Services  
Agency

Golf courses all around the Air Force now offer Golf 4 Kids, a new youth player development program that makes learning the game easy and affordable, but most of all, fun.

Operated by Air Force Services, Golf 4 Kids is designed to give children ages 8-13 years old the love of a game they will play for a lifetime.

Golf 4 Kids provides participants with a solid founda-

tion about the game of golf, including swing mechanics, etiquette, terminology, proper behavior, and how to maintain speed of play.

For only \$99 (a retail value of \$200), participants receive eight hours of small group instruction and three supervised on-course playing experiences.

Children are divided into groups of no more than six students, and are grouped by age from 8-10 years and 11-13 years.

Participants receive a Golf 4 Kids logo t-shirt, cap, golf towel, neon tee pack and bag tag, rules and etiquette brochures and a graduation certificate. Children graduating from the program will get a free set of top quality junior clubs to keep.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn the game of golf, develop good skills and meet friends," said Eric Sudy, Air Force golf program director and PGA Professional. "Golf

4 Kids provides a relaxed learning atmosphere without the intimidation factor, with emphasis on having fun. We look forward to offering this exciting program to the military community."

Children who are family members of authorized patrons of all branches of military service, including active duty, retired, and DOD civilians, are eligible to participate. For more information about Golf 4 Kids, contact your participating Air Force golf course.



### ***Dribble 'n drive***

Austin Godfrey tries to dribble past Zamone Dudley during a game of one-on-one at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Youth Center. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Demetrius Lester



# Tee time for(e) young, old at Gateway

By Wayne Amann  
37<sup>th</sup> Services Division

A recent survey by the National Golf Foundation states for every 10 children who learn golf through a structured program, six continue playing as adults. For every 10 children who did not learn through a structured program, only three played as adults.

Given those statistics there's no telling when or where the next Tiger Woods or Anika Sorenstam will surface.

It could be this summer at Lackland Air Force, Texas, when budding players learn the game during the Youth Golf Program at the Gateway Hills course.

Youth Golf is Lackland's version of the Air Force-wide Golf 4 Kids initiative designed to use quality instruction to attract new players creating a bond between instructor, player and the golf facility, while developing honesty, integrity and sportsmanship. According to its program guide Golf 4 Kids is patterned after the successful Link Up 2 Golf Program of the past three years.

"This year we'll add a new wrinkle," Lackland Director of Golf Bud Gentle explained. "We'll separate students into groups by experience instead of age. Students who've been to the sessions before will get more advanced instruction. You can't do that with a mixed crowd of varying experience."

Youngsters will benefit from the 6:1 to 8:1 student-to-teacher ratios, which mean more personalized attention.

Lackland's Youth Golf package, including instruction, is valued at approximately \$200. Total registra-

tion per junior golfer is \$59. If the student is a returning player with his or her own clubs, the fee is \$30.

"We offer a quality program at a very affordable price," Mr. Gentle said. "They get a lot for their money."

Besides instructional swing elements each session's first day covers golf safety, etiquette, procedures, behavior, terminology, score keeping and the importance of practice. The next four days focus on swing instruction. Students are divided into threesomes the final day for a 3-hole scramble event followed by a graduation ceremony.

The Air Education and Training Command Golf Program provides each student with a set of Wilson junior Clubs (driver, three irons, putter and stand bag), a logo t-shirt, hat, bag tag, towel, a Snoopy etiquette pamphlet, "Easy Way To Learn The Rules Of Golf" booklets and a graduation certificate.

The success of the program has generated an AETC beginner's program for adults.

Golf 101 is geared for adults who've never played the game and want to learn from the ground up. After graduation students can pursue the Link Up 2 Golf Program curriculum later this summer.

"It's golf's version of getting a bachelor's degree, then a master's," Mr. Gentle said.

Participation is limited to 30 adults who'll receive a ditty bag, golf balls, a hat, a towel, a putter plus copies of the Easy Way To Learn Golf booklets.

Rental clubs are provided for the hands-on lessons. Registration is \$20. The Golf 101 program is valued at \$165.



**Instruction is the name of the game at Golf 101 for adults and the Youth Golf programs at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas' Gateway Hills Golf Course this summer. Golf 101 is for players who want to learn the game from the ground up. Photo by Robin Cresswell**

The 2-week program includes a golf introduction, putting, chipping, sand play, the full swing, a lesson review and a tour of Gateway Hills, which was named the area's top military course by a panel of 31 Alamo City links experts in the March 6 San Antonio Express-News.

The panel gave Gateway Hills 49 points to 48 for runner-up Salado del Rio at Fort Sam Houston and 33 points for Randolph Oaks. This year's win marks the third time in the past four years Lackland was tabbed the best. The year Gateway Hills didn't win overall, it got the nod for Best Customer Service.

"It's not the course itself," Mr. Gentle emphasized. "I get a lot of kudos on how courteous people are treated on the phone, at the counter and on the course here. That's what pays off in the long run."

# Luke Library urges people to turn off TV, take a hike

By Erica Reece  
56th Services Squadron

Imagine spending an evening taking a latin dance lesson instead of watching "Law and Order," or singing karaoke instead of flipping between the latest episodes of "American Idol" and re-runs of "Seinfeld."

The Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., library encouraged members of the Luke community to do just that during TV-Turnoff week, from April 25 through May 1.

To take full advantage of the week, children and adults were encouraged to stop by the library to

sign a pledge card, promising to be "screen free" for the entire week.

Participants who successfully went the entire week without switching on the TV were entered into a drawing to win a variety of prizes.

Additionally, participants who attended at least two of the sponsored events during the week, and got their pledge cards punched as proof, were entered into another drawing for one of the grand prizes.

Beyond prizes, families who have participated in this program report that suddenly they are having conversations at dinner, afternoons of cookie baking, walks in the park,

Monopoly tournaments and new hobbies, according to library staff.

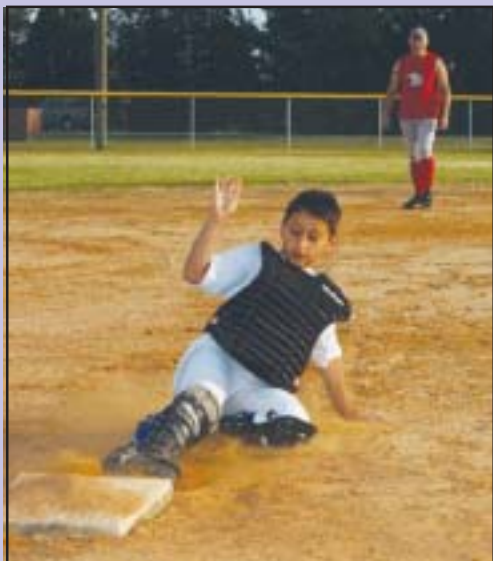
"We encouraged the entire Luke community, young and old, families and singles alike, to take this challenge," said Katie Gillen, library director. "The Phoenix area offers museums, parks and other recreational activities; it's a shame that we spend so much time in front of the TV."

TV-Turnoff week is a national effort coordinated by the TV-Turnoff Network, which encourages adults and children to watch less television in order to promote healthier lifestyles and communities.



## 52nd SVS 7, 52nd AMS 3

Airman 1st Class James Huihung Yu, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, right, defends the ball from 52nd Services Squadron team member Guido Schwanz during the first half of an intramural soccer game. Photo by Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura



### ***Safe at third!***

Joseph Szymanski, son of Senior Airman Paul Szymanski, 325th Contracting Squadron, slides into third base during baseball practice recently at Field 1. Szymanski is on the Blue Jays, a Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Center-sponsored baseball team for 9- and 10-year old children. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

# Travis' children compete in Hershey youth track meet

**Story and photo By  
Staff Sgt. Matt  
McGovern  
Travis Air Force Base,  
Calif., Public Affairs**

The Fitness Center hosted the Hershey Youth Program track and field competition May 14.

Children, ages 9-14, competed in the 50, 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes, 800 and 1600 meter runs.

"The event was a great opportunity for the children to test their skills against other kids their

age," said Mr. Steve Metcalf, youth sports coordinator.

The youth also tested their skills by competing in the standing long jump and soft ball throw.

Sponsored by Hershey, the competition was the first of its kind at Travis.

The Hershey Fitness Program began in 1975 due to a presidential report that described the physical fitness of children, ages 9-14, as poor.

"Most of the children participat-

ing in the running events practiced for the event," said Mr. Metcalf.

"They were highly motivated, with an excellent technique where they excelled at the end," he added.

The children's events were made possible with the help of volunteers from Team Travis.

"It was wonderful to have volunteers to fill in all the positions for a successful track meet and I'd like to thank them for the participation, we're



The winners of the track and field competition pose with awards at the Travis Fitness Center's track. Children, ages 9-14, competed in the 50, 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes, 800 and 1,600 meter runs. The youth also tested their skills by competing in the standing long jump and softball throw.

in the process of building our program and we're always looking for

volunteers for events," said Mr. Metcalf.



# Fun & Fitness

## *Buckley's 460th Services Division hosts fitness center's first birthday bash*



Left, 2nd Lt. Christopher White, 460th Civil Engineer Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, Japan, along with others, performs one of several group exercises that were part of the fitness center birthday bash. There were several events for people to participate in throughout the day.



Above, Airman 1st Class Eric McComb, 460th Mission Support Squadron, slides for the ball during a game of dodgeball in the gym. Many people showed up for the just-for-fun dodgeball games at the beginning of the day, as well as the dodgeball tournament in the afternoon. Photos by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith



### ***Having a wheel good time***

Devan Johnston, son of Staff Sgt. Edgar Castillo, 823th RED HORSE Squadron/ Detachment 1, heads down the ramp at the skate park near the Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Center recently. The park has an assortment of ramps, rails and other obstacles on which young skaters can hone their skills. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek



### ***97th AMW Services Squadron crowned intramural champs***

The Altus Air Force Base, Okla., intramural base championship team consists of, from left, top row, B. Sellers, Omar Giles, B.J. Bush, Johnny Danner, and Troy Hoover; bottom row, Karlos McMahon, Willie Williams and Willie Williams Jr. The 97th Air Mobility Wing Services team finished the season undefeated. Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gwen Blakley

## ***Travis fitness center changes guest policy***

**By 2nd Lt. Lindsey Hahn**  
Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Public Affairs

The Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Fitness Center is tightening its policy on who is authorized to frequent the fitness center as a guest.

"The number of guests signed in for fiscal year 2004 was 14,364," said Tanya Graves, fitness center director. "About 775 were 'true' guests from outside the local area."

To be a guest, visitors must reside more than 75 miles from Travis and must produce a driver's

license or passport as valid identification. Local area residents within 75 miles will not be permitted access to the fitness center.

"Abuse of the guest policy is contributing to overcrowding in the facility," said Ms. Graves. "A review of the sign-in log shows 95 percent of guests are local residents."

Along with the distance limitation, the same guest may not be signed in more than eight times a year or for more than one consecutive period of two weeks.

"I use the fitness center at all hours of the day and night," said

Col. Tracy Hardwick, Mission Support Group commander. "I get complaints about the 'crowd.' This effort will really help."

This policy will not apply to dependents of authorized users. Policies similar to the one the Travis fitness center is implementing will likely be enforced at other bases.

"Several Fitness Center directors conducted a review of guest policies due to this problem occurring," said Ms. Graves. "As a result, they are now incorporating distance limitations in addition to number of visits per year."

### ***Running for a good cause***

Kadena Airmen and family members start off strong during the Special Olympics 5k Fun Run/Walk Saturday. More than 200 people attended the event to raise more than \$2,800 for the June 18 Kadena Special Olympics. Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stephanie Sinclair



## *In Seymour Johnson intramural softball*

# 4th Comm Squadron served by 4th Services Squadron, 11-8

By Airman Frank Snider  
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.,  
Public Affairs

The 4th Services Squadron and 4th Communication Squadron from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., faced off recently in an intramural softball game at Tinker Field with Services coming from behind to win 11-8.

The win was thanks largely in part to a single in the bottom of the sixth inning by Nate "the great" Rubin that turned into a three-run homerun from throwing errors.

"I was only hoping for a base hit," Rubin said. "We got lucky when they dropped the ball."

The game started well for Comm, scoring three runs in the first inning. Services responded in their half with a triple and a sacrifice to drive in the run. Chuck Downs then smashed the ball over the fence to make the score 3-2.

In the top of the second, Comm scored two more runs with solid hitting to extend their lead to 5-2.

In the bottom of the second, Services closed the gap with a run of their own.

With Comm at bat and leading 8-6 in the top of the sixth, they went three up and three down, giving Services a chance to come back.

And come back they did. With two on and two out, Robert "Bobo" Coleman smashed a double into the outfield to drive in a pair of runs.



The 4th Services Squadron's Nate "The Great" Rubin is called safe as he slides into home during a game against the 4th Communications Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.'s Tinker Field recently. The Services team came from behind to win the game 11-8. Rubin's single turned into a three-run home run on throwing errors. Photo by Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski

Tamara Duke followed with a dribbler that settled inside the foul line between third and home. She easily reached first base.

With players on first and second, Rubin ripped his single for both the go ahead run and two more for insurance. Due to sloppiness by Comm, three runs scored.

With Services ahead 11-8, Maggie Fussell took the mound to keep Comm from coming back. The first hit for Comm gave them a man

on first. But the next batter lined a shot to second, and Services turned the double play. With time running out, the ball was popped up in the infield and easily caught to end the game.

"That hit by Duke really helped us with positioning," Services coach Coleman said. "Without that, we might have been sitting on the bench sooner."

Services record is 5-1 while Comm drops to 5-2.



# AF wrestlers take two medals at nationals

**By Staff Sgt. Cia Newman**  
Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

Air Force wrestlers left the recent U.S. National Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas with a silver and bronze medal and qualified five wrestlers to attend the World Team Trials.

"We came into this competition understanding we are rebuilding our team," said Richard Estrella, Air Force wrestling coach. "So we are not disappointed in leaving with two medals and three top-seven placers because the effort put forth by everyone on the team was strong."

Greco-Roman wrestler Staff Sgt. Jacob Hey from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., took the silver in the 132-pound division, and 1st Lt. Philip Johnston from Schriever AFB, Colo., won a bronze in the 211.5-pound division. The team also walked away from the two-day competition with the second place award for the Greco-Roman National Team Championship title.

"For the past three years, we have received a team championship award," Mr. Estrella said. "This year's award means a lot since we are developing a younger team."

Winning the silver medal, Sergeant Hey defeated Duaine Martin, U.S. Army Wrestling Team, in the semifinals 0-1, 1-0, 1-0, but was not able to duplicate his win in the final match against New York Athletic Club wrestler Joe Warren.

Sergeant Hey and Lieutenant Johnston were also the 2005 Armed Forces Championship winners. Lieutenant Johnston, moving up four positions from 2004, took home the bronze medal after beating J.D.

Bergman, of the Ohio International Wrestling Corporation, by a technical call 5-0, 8-0 for third-place.

"I have no regrets," Lieutenant Johnston said. "My goal was to be No. 1, but ultimately it's to wrestle as well as I can, and I did that during this competition."

Also earning berths in the World Team Trials was Capt. Anthony Brooker from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., who finished fourth in the 121-pound division; Airman 1st Class Justin Millard from Peterson AFB, Colo., who finished seventh at 185-pounds; and 1st Lt. Laura McDonald from Randolph AFB, Texas, a 147-pound women's freestyle wrestler who also placed in the Open Nationals and earned a berth to the trials.

Another significant accomplishment for the team was having two female Airmen compete.

"This was the first time we've had female wrestlers represent the Air Force" Mr. Estrella said. "They are the 'pioneers leading the way.' Having the women training alongside the men during the entire camp helped make us a better team."

"It's an awesome feeling to be one of the first to lay the foundation for other female Airmen wrestlers," said Airman 1st Class Bethany Murphy from Langley AFB, Va., a 130-pound division women's freestyle wrestler.

"The realization is that our wrestlers are Airmen first and are still held responsible to perform their regular duties and prepare for their competitions. But if I could spend just a little more time with them and we get a little more experience, it would be scary to see how good we could possibly be," Mr. Estrella said.



First Lt. Philip Johnston (bottom), a 211.2-pound division Greco-Roman wrestler, pulls off a lift and throw on his opponent, J.D. Bergman of the Ohio International Wrestling Club, during a consolation match of the 2005 U.S. Nationals Wrestling tournament. Lieutenant Johnston won the match 5-0, 8-0, and took third place in his weight class. Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Valenca

# Gym reopens with fanfare, fun

**By Airman 1st Class  
Tong Duon**  
Luke Air Force Base,  
Ariz., Public Affairs

Airmen at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., can now play basketball and other sports on a brand new, state-of-the-

art gym floor that reopened May 4.

Retired Seattle Seahawks quarterback Dave Krieg, along with Col. Robin Rand, 56th Fighter Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Chris Gnann, 56th Services

Squadron commander, were on hand to take part in the opening and festivities, which included a three-point shoot out, a hot shots contest, and the main attraction, a Chiefs vs. Eagles basketball game.

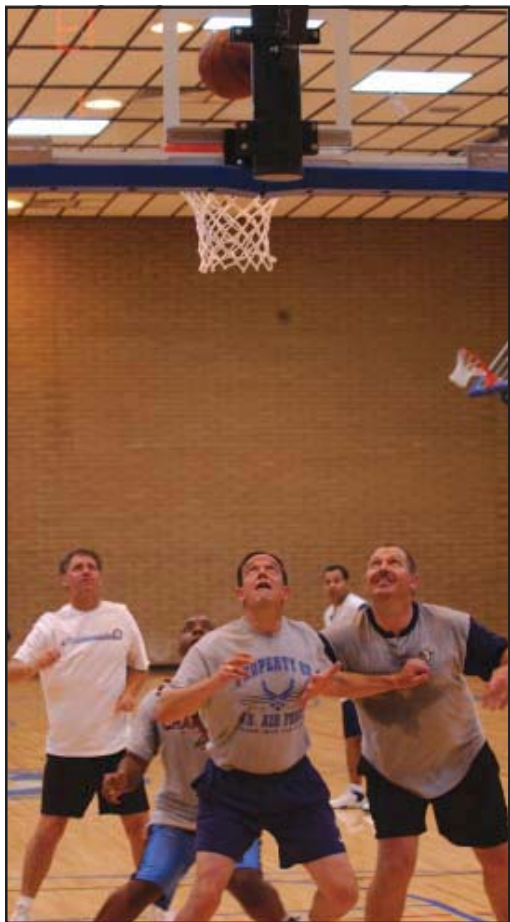
After two years of construction and renovation costing more than \$400,000, from the air conditioning units and wood flooring to the nuts and bolts that hold up the basketball hoops, nearly everything is brand new.

"Luke members can now play basketball, volleyball, and badminton in the same facility and out of the heat," said Vic Conyers, 56th Services Squadron Fitness Center athletic director.

The facility features two regulation size volleyball courts, eight basketball hoops and two regulation size badminton courts, as well as two sets of bleachers that hold up to 500 spectators.



Col. Robin Rand, 56th Fighter Wing commander, tosses the ball into the air as Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff, left, 56th FW command chief, and Lt. Col. Timothy Strawther, 56th Operations Group deputy commander, prepare to jump during the tip off in a Chiefs and Eagles game at the newly remodeled gymnasium. Photos by Airman Levi Riendeau



From left, Walt Wright, 56th Operations Group, and Scott Dearduff, 56th Fighter Wing, jockey for position under the basket during the Chiefs vs. Eagles basketball game. The shoot-out contest, a hot-shots contest and Chiefs vs. Eagles game were part of the festivities celebrating the reopening of the gym after nearly two years of remodeling.

The gym was completed ahead of schedule.

Mr. Krieg, a 19-year veteran NFL quarterback, reflected on the importance of the military and how much he looked up to those who served their country.

The Air Force, he said, holds a special place in his heart, because a good friend of his joined and flew F-15 combat missions during Desert Storm.

"It's amazing the amount of discipline, sacrifice and the dedication you (Luke) Airmen display ... people in the NFL and other sports appreciate and are proud of what you do. It's an honor to be here."

"The new flooring now makes it safer to practice," said Airman 1st Class Lisa Wilkerson, 56th Medical Support Staff health service management. "Playing outside was dangerous."

## Ashley aims high, wins overall title

By Mark Beason  
Tupelo Daily Journal

Chris Ashley is in the Air Force, but he may never be higher than he was Friday afternoon with both feet on the ground.

Ashley had his greatest shooting accomplishment this past week in the Armed Forces Skeet Championship, winning the high-overall, high all-around and the 20-gauge championships.

He posted a 593x600 to win the high-overall title and a 691x700 for the high all-around title. The high all-around includes the four gun scores and the doubles event.

"This is by far the biggest shoot I've ever won," Ashley said. "It makes it even more special for it to come in this shoot."

Ashley started out the week with a 97 in the .410 bore

and came through with a 99 in the 28-gauge. His first win came in the 20-gauge, in a six-man shoot-off.

In the 12-gauge, he hit 197x200, good enough to give him the two top prizes.

"I'm glad it didn't come down to a shoot-off," Ashley said. "To win here against all these great military shooters is just incredible."

The Armed Forces shoot was a week-long event, bringing in the top retired and active military shooters. One of the top prizes is a team award for the top military team. All branches were represented by five-man teams, with the Air Force One team winning the team title for the second straight year.

Next year the shoot will be held at Fort Bragg, N.C.

## Ashley wins 20-gauge in 6-man shootoff

By Mark Beason  
Tupelo Daily Journal

Chris Ashley may be in the Air Force, but on May 18, he was well-grounded.

Ashley won the 20-gauge championship at the Armed Forces Skeet Shoot being held at Whitetail Ridge Outdoors (in Blue Springs, Miss.). He ran a perfect 100, then beat five other shooters in a shoot-off to win the event.

This is the second time Ashley has shot in the Armed Forces Shoot, winning his first gun championship. Stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force base in Tucson, Ariz., he doesn't get a lot of time to practice, but was good enough to shoot well when it counted.

"I really felt well shooting all day," Ashley said. "I was a little nervous in

the shoot-off, but I felt confident."

Ashley outlasted Bill Green, a veteran shooter from Fort Bragg, N.C. Green finished in second and says he shot well despite finishing runner-up.

"All those guys in the shootoff are really good shots," Green said. "The target I missed in the shootoff got a little underneath my gun and I just shot over the top of it."

Unlike a lot of shoots, the 12-gauge event consists of 200 targets. Shooters normally shoot 100 in each gauge, but in the Armed Forces Shoot they use 200 targets to decide the 12-gauge winner.

*(Editor's note: These articles are excerpted with permission from the originals that appeared in the Tupelo, Miss. Daily Journal.)*